

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 September 2005 (15.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/085251 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07D 487/04, 519/00, A61K 31/5517, A61P 35/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2005/000768

(22) International Filing Date: 1 March 2005 (01.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0404575.3 1 March 2004 (01.03.2004) GB
0426392.7 1 December 2004 (01.12.2004) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

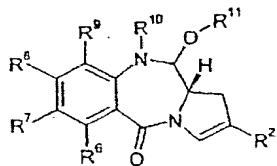
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

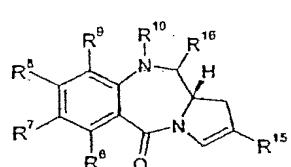
- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: 11-HYDROXY-5H-PYRROLO[2,1-C][1,4]BENZODIAZEPIN-5-ONE DERIVATIVES AS KEY INTERMEDIATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF C2 SUBSTITUTED PYRROLOBENZODIAZEPINES



(I)



(III)

(57) Abstract: The present inventors have developed a key intermediate for the production of C2 substituted PBDs, which has a leaving group at the C2 position, a carbamate protecting group at the N10 position and a protected hydroxy group at the C11 position. In a first aspect, the present invention comprises a compound with the formula (I), wherein: R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group; and R² is a labile leaving group. In a further aspect, the present invention comprises a method of synthesising a compound of formula (III), or a solvate thereof, from a compound of formula (I) as defined in the first aspect, R¹⁶ is either O-R¹¹, wherein R¹¹ is as defined in the first aspect, or OH, or R¹⁰ and R¹⁶

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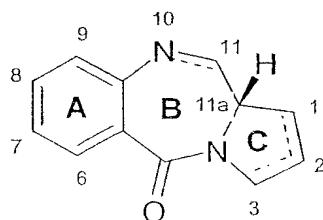
together form a double bond between N10 and C11; and R¹⁵ is R. The other substituents are defined in the claims. Further aspects of the present invention relate to compounds of formula (III) (including solvates thereof when R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ form a double bond between N10 and C11, and pharmaceutical salts thereof), pharmaceutical compositions comprising these, and their use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a proliferative disease.

11-HYDROXY-5H-PYRROLO[2,1-C][1,4]BENZODIAZEPIN-5-ONE DERIVATIVES AS KEY
INTERMEDIATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF C2 SUBSTITUTED
PYRROLOBENZODIAZEPINES

The present invention relates to pyrrolobenzodiazepines (PBDs), and in particular pyrrolobenzodiazepines useful in the synthesis of C2 substituted compounds.

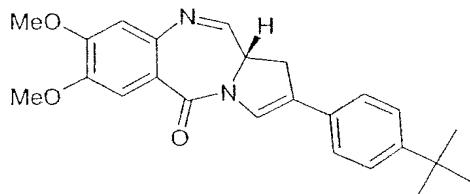
5 **Background to the invention**

Some pyrrolobenzodiazepines (PBDs) have the ability to recognise and bond to specific sequences of DNA; the preferred sequence is PuGpu. The first PBD antitumour antibiotic, anthramycin, was discovered in 1965 (Leimgruber, et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 5793-5795 (1965); Leimgruber, et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 5791-5793 (1965)). Since then, a number of naturally occurring PBDs have been reported, and over 10 synthetic routes have been developed to a variety of analogues (Thurston, et al., *Chem. Rev.* 10 **1994**, 433-465 (1994)). Family members include abbeymycin (Hochlowski, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **40**, 145-148 (1987)), chicamycin (Konishi, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **37**, 200-206 (1984)), DC-81 (Japanese Patent 58-180 487; Thurston, et al., *Chem. Brit.*, 15 **26**, 767-772 (1990); Bose, et al., *Tetrahedron*, **48**, 751-758 (1992)), mazethramycin (Kuminoto, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **33**, 665-667 (1980)), neothramycins A and B (Takeuchi, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **29**, 93-96 (1976)), porothramycin (Tsunakawa, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **41**, 1366-1373 (1988)), prothracarcin (Shimizu, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **29**, 2492-2503 (1982); Langley and Thurston, *J. Org. Chem.*, **52**, 91-97 (1987)), sibanomicin (DC-102) (Hara, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **41**, 702-704 (1988); Itoh, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **41**, 1281-1284 (1988)), sibiromycin (Leber, et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **110**, 2992-2993 (1988)) and tomamycin (Arima, et al., *J. Antibiotics*, **25**, 437-444 (1972)). PBDs are of the general 20 structure:

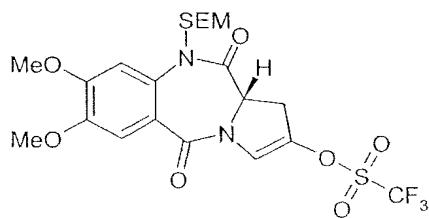


They differ in the number, type and position of substituents, in both their aromatic A rings and pyrrolo C rings, and in the degree of saturation of the C ring. In the B-ring there is either an imine (N=C), a carbinolamine (NH-CH(OH)), or a carbinolamine methyl ether (NH-CH(OMe)) at the N10-C11 position which is the electrophilic centre responsible for alkylating DNA. All of the known natural products have an (S)-configuration at the chiral C11a position which provides them with a right-handed twist when viewed from the C ring towards the A ring. This gives them the appropriate three-dimensional shape for isohelicity with the minor groove of B-form DNA, leading to a snug fit at the binding site (Kohn, In *Antibiotics III*. Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 3-11 (1975); Hurley and Needham-VanDevanter, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **19**, 230-237 (1986)). Their ability to form an adduct in the minor groove, enables them to interfere with DNA processing, hence their use as antitumour agents.

The present inventors have previously disclosed, in PCT/GB2003/004963, cytotoxic compounds having an aryl group at the C2 position, for example:

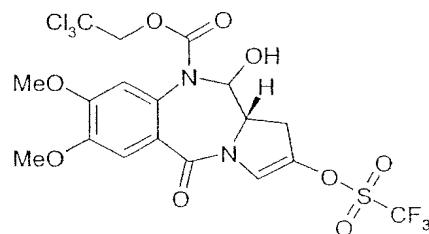


The synthesis of these compounds was achieved via the following intermediate:



whose synthesis was described in detail in WO 00/12508. This method involves a reduction as a deprotection step, which can lead to overreduction of the compound which is not desirable. Also, with certain C2 groups, the reduction step does not proceed at all.

The following intermediate has also been disclosed:

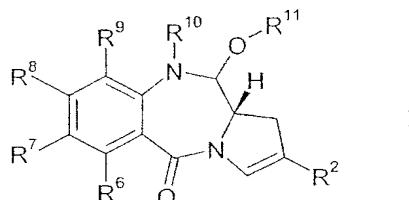


but its synthesis has proved difficult and only proceeds in low yield.

Disclosure of the invention

The present inventors have developed a key intermediate for the production of C2 substituted PBDs, which has a leaving group at the 15 C2 position, a carbamate protecting group at the N10 position and a protected hydroxy group at the C11 position.

In a first aspect, the present invention comprises a compound with the formula I:



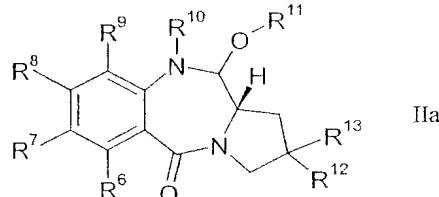
20

wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NHRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo, or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula —X—R¹⁰—X— linking the monomers, where R¹⁰ is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, e.g. O, S, NH, and/or aromatic rings, e.g. benzene or pyridine, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH; or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group —O—(CH₂)_p—O—, where p is 1 or 2; R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group; and R² is a labile leaving group.

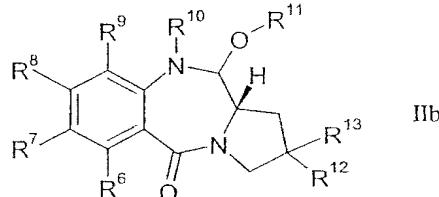
In a second aspect, the present invention comprises a method of synthesising a compound of formula I as defined in the first aspect of the invention from a compound of formula IIa:



wherein R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are as defined in the first aspect; and

R¹² and R¹³ together form =O.

It is preferred that the compound of formula IIa is synthesised from a compound of formula IIb:

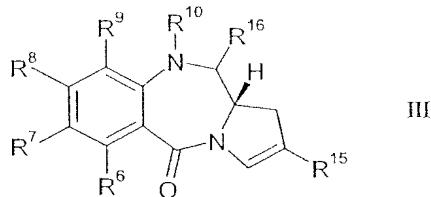


wherein R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are as defined in the first aspect;

R^{12} is $O-R^{14}$, and R^{13} is H, where R^{14} is an oxygen protecting group which is orthogonal to R^{11} .

5

In a third aspect, the present invention comprises a method of synthesising a compound of formula **III**:



or a solvate thereof, from a compound of formula **I** as defined in the first aspect, wherein R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 are as defined in the first aspect;

R^{10} is as defined in the first aspect and R^{16} is either $O-R^{11}$, wherein R^{11} is as defined in the first aspect, or OH, or R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11; and

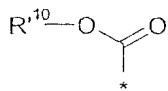
15 R^{15} is R.

Further aspects of the present invention relate to novel compounds of formula **III** (including solvates thereof when R^{10} and R^{16} form a double bond between N10 and C11, and pharmaceutical salts thereof), 20 their use in methods of therapy (particularly in treating proliferative diseases), pharmaceutical compositions comprising these, and their use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a proliferative disease.

25 Definitions

Carbamate-based nitrogen protecting groups

Carbamate-based nitrogen protecting groups are well known in the art, and have the following structure:

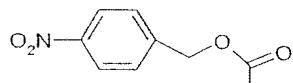


wherein R'^{10} is R as defined above. A large number of suitable groups are described on pages 503 to 549 of Greene, T.W. and Wuts, G.M., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference.

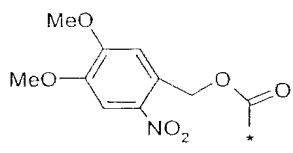
Particularly preferred protecting groups include Troc, Teoc, Fmoc, BOC, Doc, Hoc, TcBOC, 1-Adoc and 2-Adoc.

10 Those protecting groups which can be removed with palladium catalysis are not preferred, e.g. Alloc.

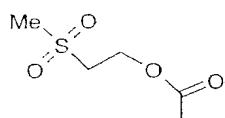
15 Also suitable for use in the present invention are nitrogen protecting group which can be removed *in vivo* (e.g. enzymatically, using light) as described in WO 00/12507, which is incorporated herein by reference. Examples of these protecting groups include:



, which is nitroreductase labile (e.g. using ADEPT/GDEPT);



and , which are photolabile; and



which is glutathione labile (e.g. using NPEPT).

25 *Oxygen protecting groups*

Oxygen protecting groups are well known in the art. A large number of suitable groups are described on pages 23 to 200 of Greene, T.W. and Wuts, G.M., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd Edition,

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference.

5 Classes of particular interest include silyl ethers, methyl ethers, alkyl ethers, benzyl ethers, esters, benzoates, carbonates, and sulfonates.

10 Preferred oxygen protecting groups include TBS, THP for the C11 oxygen atom, and methyl ester for the C2 oxygen atom (where present).

15 As mentioned above the oxygen protecting group R¹⁴ should be orthogonal to the oxygen protecting group R¹¹. Protecting groups which are orthogonal to one another may each be removed using reagents or conditions which do not remove the other protecting group.

20 It may also be preferred that any protecting groups used during the synthesis and use of compounds of formula I are orthogonal to one another. However, it is often not necessary, but may be desirable, for the carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group and R¹¹ to be orthogonal to one another, depending on whether the compound of formula III is to be used with the nitrogen protecting group in place.

25 *Labile leaving groups*
Labile leaving groups suitable for use in the present invention are in particular those amenable to palladium catalysed coupling, for example using Suzuki or Stille coupling. Suitable groups include 30 mesylate (-OSO₂CH₃), -OSO₂(C_nF_{2n+1}) where n=0,1 or 4, -OSO₂-R^s where R^s is an optionally substituted phenyl group (e.g. 4-Me-Ph, tosylate), I, Br and Cl. More preferred are -OSO₂(C_nF_{2n+1}) where n=0,1 or 4, I, Br and Cl, with triflate (-OSO₂CF₃) and Br being the most preferred.

Substituents

The phrase "optionally substituted" as used herein, pertains to a parent group which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted.

5

Unless otherwise specified, the term "substituted" as used herein, pertains to a parent group which bears one or more substituents.

The term "substituent" is used herein in the conventional sense and refers to a chemical moiety which is covalently attached to, or if 10 appropriate, fused to, a parent group. A wide variety of substituents are well known, and methods for their formation and introduction into a variety of parent groups are also well known.

Examples of substituents are described in more detail below.

15

C_{1-12} alkyl: The term " C_{1-12} alkyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a carbon atom of a hydrocarbon compound having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, which may be aliphatic or alicyclic, and which may be 20 saturated or unsaturated (e.g. partially unsaturated, fully unsaturated). Thus, the term "alkyl" includes the sub-classes alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, etc., discussed below.

Examples of saturated alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, 25 methyl (C_1), ethyl (C_2), propyl (C_3), butyl (C_4), pentyl (C_5), hexyl (C_6) and heptyl (C_7).

Examples of saturated linear alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl (C_1), ethyl (C_2), n-propyl (C_3), n-butyl (C_4), 30 n-pentyl (amyl) (C_5), n-hexyl (C_6) and n-heptyl (C_7).

Examples of saturated branched alkyl groups include iso-propyl (C_3), iso-butyl (C_4), sec-butyl (C_4), tert-butyl (C_4), iso-pentyl (C_5), and neo-pentyl (C_5).

35

C₂₋₁₂ Alkenyl: The term "C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group having one or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

Examples of unsaturated alkenyl groups include, but are not limited to, ethenyl (vinyl, -CH=CH₂), 1-propenyl (-CH=CH-CH₃), 2-propenyl (allyl, -CH-CH=CH₂), isopropenyl (1-methylvinyl, -C(CH₃)=CH₂), butenyl (C₄), pentenyl (C₅), and hexenyl (C₆).

C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl: The term "C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group having one or more carbon-carbon triple bonds.

Examples of unsaturated alkynyl groups include, but are not limited to, ethynyl (ethinyl, -C≡CH) and 2-propynyl (propargyl, -CH₂-C≡CH).

C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl: The term "C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group which is also a cyclyl group; that is, a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from an alicyclic ring atom of a cyclic hydrocarbon (carbocyclic) compound, which moiety has from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, including from 3 to 7 ring atoms.

Examples of cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon compounds:

cyclopropane (C₃), cyclobutane (C₄), cyclopentane (C₅), cyclohexane (C₆), cycloheptane (C₇), methylcyclopropane (C₄), dimethylcyclopropane (C₅), methylcyclobutane (C₅), dimethylcyclobutane (C₆), methylcyclopentane (C₆), dimethylcyclopentane (C₇) and methylcyclohexane (C₇);

unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon compounds:

cyclopropene (C₃), cyclobutene (C₄), cyclopentene (C₅), cyclohexene (C₆), methylcyclopropene (C₄), dimethylcyclopropene (C₅), methylcyclobutene (C₅), dimethylcyclobutene (C₆), methylcyclopentene (C₆), dimethylcyclopentene (C₇) and methylcyclohexene (C₇); and

saturated polycyclic hydrocarbon compounds:

norcarane (C₇), norpinane (C₇), norbornane (C₇).

C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl: The term "C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a ring atom of a heterocyclic compound, which moiety has from 3 to 20 ring atoms, of which from 1 to 10 are ring heteroatoms. Preferably, each ring has from 3 to 7 ring atoms, of which from 1 to 4 are ring heteroatoms.

In this context, the prefixes (e.g. C₃₋₂₀, C₃₋₇, C₅₋₆, etc.) denote the number of ring atoms, or range of number of ring atoms, whether carbon atoms or heteroatoms. For example, the term "C₅₋₆heterocyclyl", as used herein, pertains to a heterocyclyl group having 5 or 6 ring atoms.

Examples of monocyclic heterocyclyl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

N₁: aziridine (C₃), azetidine (C₄), pyrrolidine (tetrahydropyrrole) (C₅), pyrroline (e.g., 3-pyrroline, 2,5-dihydropyrrole) (C₅),

2H-pyrrole or 3H-pyrrole (isopyrrole, isoazole) (C₅), piperidine (C₆), dihydropyridine (C₆), tetrahydropyridine (C₆), azepine (C₇);

O₁: oxirane (C₃), oxetane (C₄), oxolane (tetrahydrofuran) (C₅), oxole (dihydrofuran) (C₅), oxane (tetrahydropyran) (C₆), dihydropyran (C₆), pyran (C₆), oxepin (C₇);

S₁: thirane (C₃), thietane (C₄), thiolane (tetrahydrothiophene) (C₅), thiane (tetrahydrothiopyran) (C₆), thiepane (C₇);

O₂: dioxolane (C₅), dioxane (C₆), and dioxepane (C₇);

O₃: trioxane (C₆);

N₂: imidazolidine (C₅), pyrazolidine (diazolidine) (C₅), imidazoline (C₅), pyrazoline (dihydropyrazole) (C₅), piperazine (C₆);

N₁O₁: tetrahydrooxazole (C₅), dihydrooxazole (C₅), tetrahydroisoxazole (C₅), dihydroisoxazole (C₅), morpholine (C₆), tetrahydrooxazine (C₆), dihydrooxazine (C₆), oxazine (C₆);

N₁S₁: thiazoline (C₅), thiazolidine (C₅), thiomorpholine (C₆);

N₂O₁: oxadiazine (C₆);

O₁S₁: oxathiole (C₅) and oxathiane (thioxane) (C₆); and,

N₁O₁S₁: oxathiazine (C₆).

Examples of substituted monocyclic heterocyclyl groups include those derived from saccharides, in cyclic form, for example, furanoses (C₅), such as arabinofuranose, lyxofuranose, ribofuranose, and xylofuranose, and pyranoses (C₆), such as allopyranose, altropyranose, glucopyranose, mannopyranose, gulopyranose, idopyranose, galactopyranose, and talopyranose.

C₅₋₂₀ aryl: The term "C₅₋₂₀ aryl", as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from an aromatic ring atom of an aromatic compound, which moiety has from 3 to 20 ring atoms. Preferably, each ring has from 5 to 7 ring atoms.

In this context, the prefixes (e.g. C₃₋₂₀, C₅₋₇, C₅₋₆, etc.) denote the number of ring atoms, or range of number of ring atoms, whether carbon atoms or heteroatoms. For example, the term "C₅₋₆ aryl" as used herein, pertains to an aryl group having 5 or 6 ring atoms.

The ring atoms may be all carbon atoms, as in "carboaryl groups". Examples of carboaryl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from benzene (i.e. phenyl) (C₆), naphthalene (C₁₀), azulene (C₁₀), anthracene (C₁₄), phenanthrene (C₁₄), naphthacene (C₁₈), and pyrene (C₁₆).

Examples of aryl groups which comprise fused rings, at least one of which is an aromatic ring, include, but are not limited to, groups derived from indane (e.g. 2,3-dihydro-1H-indene) (C₉), indene (C₉), isoindene (C₉), tetraline (1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene) (C₁₀), acenaphthene (C₁₂), fluorene (C₁₃), phenalene (C₁₃), acephenanthrene (C₁₅), and aceanthrene (C₁₆).

Alternatively, the ring atoms may include one or more heteroatoms, as in "heteroaryl groups". Examples of monocyclic heteroaryl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

N₁: pyrrole (azole) (C₅), pyridine (azine) (C₆);
O₁: furan (oxole) (C₅);
S₁: thiophene (thiole) (C₅);
N₁O₁: oxazole (C₅), isoxazole (C₅), isoxazine (C₆);
5 N₂O₁: oxadiazole (furazan) (C₅);
N₃O₁: oxatriazole (C₅);
N₁S₁: thiazole (C₅), isothiazole (C₅);
N₂: imidazole (1,3-diazole) (C₅), pyrazole (1,2-diazole) (C₅),
pyridazine (1,2-diazine) (C₆), pyrimidine (1,3-diazine) (C₆) (e.g.,
10 cytosine, thymine, uracil), pyrazine (1,4-diazine) (C₆);
N₃: triazole (C₅), triazine (C₆); and,
N₄: tetrazole (C₅).

Examples of heteroaryl which comprise fused rings, include, but are
15 not limited to:

C₉ (with 2 fused rings) derived from benzofuran (O₁),
isobenzofuran (O₁), indole (N₁), isoindole (N₁), indolizine (N₁),
indoline (N₁), isoindoline (N₁), purine (N₄) (e.g., adenine,
guanine), benzimidazole (N₂), indazole (N₂), benzoxazole (N₁O₁),
20 benzisoxazole (N₁O₁), benzodioxole (O₂), benzofurazan (N₂O₁),
benzotriazole (N₃), benzothiofuran (S₁), benzothiazole (N₁S₁),
benzothiadiazole (N₂S);

C₁₀ (with 2 fused rings) derived from chromene (O₁),
isochromene (O₁), chroman (O₁), isochroman (O₁), benzodioxan (O₂),
25 quinoline (N₁), isoquinoline (N₁), quinolizine (N₁), benzoxazine
(N₁O₁), benzodiazine (N₂), pyridopyridine (N₂), quinoxaline (N₂),
quinazoline (N₂), cinnoline (N₂), phthalazine (N₂), naphthyridine
(N₂), pteridine (N₄);

C₁₁ (with 2 fused rings) derived from benzodiazepine (N₂);

C₁₃ (with 3 fused rings) derived from carbazole (N₁),
dibenzofuran (O₁), dibenzothiophene (S₁), carboline (N₂), perimidine
(N₂), pyridoindole (N₂); and,

C₁₄ (with 3 fused rings) derived from acridine (N₁), xanthene
(O₁), thioxanthene (S₁), oxanthrene (O₂), phenoxythiin (O₁S₁),
35 phenazine (N₂), phenoxazine (N₁O₁), phenothiazine (N₁S₁), thianthrene
(S₂), phenanthridine (N₁), phenanthroline (N₂), phenazine (N₂).

The above groups, whether alone or part of another substituent, may themselves optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from themselves and the additional substituents listed 5 below.

Halo: -F, -Cl, -Br, and -I.

Hydroxy: -OH.

Ether: -OR, wherein R is an ether substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to as a C₁₋₇ alkoxy group, discussed below), a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group (also referred to as a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyloxy group), or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group (also referred to as a 10 C₅₋₂₀ aryloxy group), preferably a C₁₋₇alkyl group.

Alkoxy: -OR, wherein R is an alkyl group, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of C₁₋₇ alkoxy groups include, but are not limited 20 to, -OMe (methoxy), -OEt (ethoxy), -O(nPr) (n-propoxy), -O(iPr) (isopropoxy), -O(nBu) (n-butoxy), -O(sBu) (sec-butoxy), -O(iBu) (isobutoxy), and -O(tBu) (tert-butoxy).

Acetal: -CH(OR¹)(OR²), wherein R¹ and R² are independently acetal substituents, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl 25 group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or, in the case of a "cyclic" acetal group, R¹ and R², taken together with the two oxygen atoms to which they are attached, and the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring having from 4 to 8 ring atoms. Examples of acetal groups include, but are 30 not limited to, -CH(OMe)₂, -CH(OEt)₂, and -CH(OMe)(OEt).

Hemiacetal: -CH(OH)(OR¹), wherein R¹ is a hemiacetal substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of hemiacetal 35 groups include, but are not limited to, -CH(OH)(OMe) and -CH(OH)(OEt).

Ketal: $-\text{CR}(\text{OR}^1)(\text{OR}^2)$, where R^1 and R^2 are as defined for acetals, and R is a ketal substituent other than hydrogen, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples ketal groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OMe})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OEt})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OMe})(\text{OEt})$, $-\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{OMe})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{OEt})_2$, and $-\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{OMe})(\text{OEt})$.

Hemiketal: $-\text{CR}(\text{OH})(\text{OR}^1)$, where R^1 is as defined for hemiacetals, and R is a hemiketal substituent other than hydrogen, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of hemiacetal groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OH})(\text{OMe})$, $-\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{OH})(\text{OMe})$, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OH})(\text{OEt})$, and $-\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{OH})(\text{OEt})$.

15

Oxo (keto, -one): $=\text{O}$.

Thione (thioketone): $=\text{S}$.

20 Imino (imine): $=\text{NR}$, wherein R is an imino substituent, for example, hydrogen, C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of ester groups include, but are not limited to, $=\text{NH}$, $=\text{NMe}$, $=\text{NET}$, and $=\text{NPh}$.

25 Formyl (carbaldehyde, carboxaldehyde): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{H}$.

30 Acyl (keto): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}$, wherein R is an acyl substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group (also referred to as C_{1-7} alkylacyl or C_{1-7} alkanoyl), a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group (also referred to as C_{3-20} heterocyclylacyl), or a C_{5-20} aryl group (also referred to as C_{5-20} arylacyl), preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of acyl groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ (acetyl), $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ (propionyl), $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ (t-butyryl), and $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{Ph}$ (benzoyl, phenone).

35

Carboxy (carboxylic acid): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OH}$.

Thiocarboxy (thiocarboxylic acid): $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{SH}$.

Thiolocarboxy (thiolocarboxylic acid): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{SH}$.

5

Thionocarboxy (thionocarboxylic acid): $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{OH}$.

Imidic acid: $-\text{C}(=\text{NH})\text{OH}$.

10 Hydroxamic acid: $-\text{C}(=\text{NOH})\text{OH}$.

Ester (carboxylate, carboxylic acid ester, oxycarbonyl): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}$, wherein R is an ester substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of ester groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, and $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OPh}$.

20 Acyloxy (reverse ester): $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{R}$, wherein R is an acyloxy substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of acyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ (acetoxy), $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{Ph}$, and $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$.

25 Oxycarboyl oxy: $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OR}$, wherein R is an ester substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of ester groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OCH}_3$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, and $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{OPh}$.

30

Amino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R¹ and R² are independently amino substituents, for example, hydrogen, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to as C₁₋₇ alkylamino or di-C₁₋₇ alkylamino), a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably H or a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or, in the case of a "cyclic" amino group, R¹ and R², taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached,

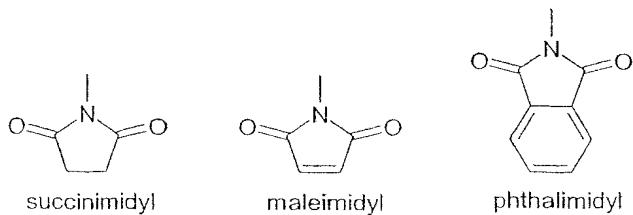
form a heterocyclic ring having from 4 to 8 ring atoms. Amino groups may be primary ($-\text{NH}_2$), secondary ($-\text{NHR}^1$), or tertiary ($-\text{NHR}^1\text{R}^2$), and in cationic form, may be quaternary ($-\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3$).

Examples of amino groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NHCH}_3$, $-\text{NHC}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{NHPH}$. Examples of cyclic amino groups include, but are not limited to, aziridino, azetidino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino, morpholino, and thiomorpholino.

Amido (carbamoyl, carbamyl, aminocarbonyl, carboxamide): $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of amido groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NHCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, and $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, as well as amido groups in which R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic structure as in, for example, piperidinocarbonyl, morpholinocarbonyl, thiomorpholinocarbonyl, and piperazinocarbonyl.

Thioamido (thiocarbamyl): $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of amido groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{NHCH}_3$, $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{C}(=\text{S})\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Acylamido (acylamino): $-\text{NR}^1\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 is an amide substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group, and R^2 is an acyl substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of acylamide groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NHC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{NHC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, and $-\text{NHC}(=\text{O})\text{Ph}$. R^1 and R^2 may together form a cyclic structure, as in, for example, succinimidyl, maleimidyl, and phthalimidyl:



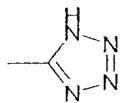
Aminocarbonyloxy: $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of aminocarbonyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{NHMe}$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{NMe}_2$, and $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{NET}_2$.

Ureido: $-\text{N}(\text{R}^1)\text{CONR}^2\text{R}^3$ wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups, and R^1 is a ureido substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of ureido groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NHCONH}_2$, $-\text{NHCONHMe}$, $-\text{NHCONHET}$, $-\text{NHCONMe}_2$, $-\text{NHCONET}_2$, $-\text{NMeCONH}_2$, $-\text{NMeCONHMe}$, $-\text{NMeCONHET}$, $-\text{NMeCONMe}_2$, and $-\text{NMeCONET}_2$.

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Guanidino: $-\text{NH}-\text{C}(=\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$.

Tetrazolyl: a five membered aromatic ring having four nitrogen atoms and one carbon atom,



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Imino: $=\text{NR}$, wherein R is an imino substituent, for example, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably H or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of imino groups include, but are not limited to, $=\text{NH}$, $=\text{NMe}$, and $=\text{NET}$.

25

Amidine (amidino): $-\text{C}(=\text{NR})\text{NR}_2$, wherein each R is an amidine substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably H or a C_{1-7}

alkyl group. Examples of amidine groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{C}(=\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NH})\text{NMe}_2$, and $-\text{C}(=\text{NMe})\text{NMe}_2$.

5 Nitro: $-\text{NO}_2$.

Nitroso: $-\text{NO}$.

Azido: $-\text{N}_3$.

10 Cyano (nitrile, carbonitrile): $-\text{CN}$.

Isocyano: $-\text{NC}$.

Cyanato: $-\text{OCN}$.

15 Isocyanato: $-\text{NCO}$.

Thiocyanato (thiocyanato): $-\text{SCN}$.

20 Isothiocyanato (isothiocyanato): $-\text{NCS}$.

Sulphydryl (thiol, mercapto): $-\text{SH}$.

25 Thioether (sulfide): $-\text{SR}$, wherein R is a thioether substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group (also referred to as a C_{1-7} alkylthio group), a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of C_{1-7} alkylthio groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{SCH}_3$ and $-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

30 Disulfide: $-\text{SS-R}$, wherein R is a disulfide substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group (also referred to herein as C_{1-7} alkyl disulfide). Examples of C_{1-7} alkyl disulfide groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{SSCH}_3$ and $-\text{SSCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Sulfine (sulfinyl, sulfoxide): $-S(=O)R$, wherein R is a sulfine substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfine groups include, but are not limited to, $-S(=O)CH_3$ and 5 $-S(=O)CH_2CH_3$.

Sulfone (sulfonyl): $-S(=O)_2R$, wherein R is a sulfone substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group, including, for example, a 10 fluorinated or perfluorinated C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfone groups include, but are not limited to, $-S(=O)_2CH_3$ (methanesulfonyl, mesyl), $-S(=O)_2CF_3$ (triflyl), $-S(=O)_2CH_2CH_3$ (esyl), $-S(=O)_2C_4F_9$ (nonaflyl), $-S(=O)_2CH_2CF_3$ (tresyl), $-S(=O)_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$ (tauryl), $-S(=O)_2Ph$ (phenylsulfonyl, besyl), 4-methylphenylsulfonyl (tosyl), 15 4-chlorophenylsulfonyl (closyl), 4-bromophenylsulfonyl (brosyl), 4-nitrophenyl (nosyl), 2-naphthalenesulfonate (napsyl), and 5-dimethylamino-naphthalen-1-ylsulfonate (dansyl).

Sulfinic acid (sulfino): $-S(=O)OH$, $-SO_2H$.

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Sulfonic acid (sulfo): $-S(=O)_2OH$, $-SO_3H$.

Sulfinate (sulfinic acid ester): $-S(=O)OR$; wherein R is a sulfinate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples 25 of sulfinate groups include, but are not limited to, $-S(=O)OCH_3$ (methoxysulfinyl; methyl sulfinate) and $-S(=O)OCH_2CH_3$ (ethoxysulfinyl; ethyl sulfinate).

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Sulfonate (sulfonic acid ester): $-S(=O)_2OR$, wherein R is a sulfonate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfonate groups include, but are not limited to, $-S(=O)_2OCH_3$ (methoxysulfonyl; methyl sulfonate) and 35 $-S(=O)_2OCH_2CH_3$ (ethoxysulfonyl; ethyl sulfonate).

Sulfinyloxy: $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})\text{R}$, wherein R is a sulfinyloxy substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfinyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ and
5 $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Sulfonyloxy: $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{R}$, wherein R is a sulfonyloxy substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfonyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{CH}_3$ (mesylate) and
10 $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ (esylate).

Sulfate: $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OR}$; wherein R is a sulfate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfate groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OCH}_3$ and $-\text{SO}(=\text{O})_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
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Sulfamyl (sulfamoyl; sulfinic acid amide; sulfinamide): $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfamyl groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$,
20 $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NHPh}$.

Sulfonamido (sulfinamoyl; sulfonic acid amide; sulfonamide):
25 $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfonamido groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)$,
 $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NHPh}$.

Sulfamino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$, wherein R^1 is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfamino groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NHS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$ and $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$.
30

Sulfonamino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{R}$, wherein R^1 is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups, and R is a sulfonamino substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl
35

group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of sulfonamino groups include, but are not limited to, -NHS(=O)₂CH₃ and -N(CH₃)S(=O)₂C₆H₅.

5 Sulfinamino: -NR¹S(=O)R, wherein R¹ is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups, and R is a sulfinamino substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of sulfinamino groups include, but are not limited to, -NHS(=O)CH₃ and 10 -N(CH₃)S(=O)C₆H₅.

15 Phosphino (phosphine): -PR₂, wherein R is a phosphino substituent, for example, -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphino groups include, but are not limited to, -PH₂, -P(CH₃)₂, -P(CH₂CH₃)₂, -P(t-Bu)₂, and -P(Ph)₂.

20 Phospho: -P(=O)₂.

25 Phosphinyl (phosphine oxide): -P(=O)R₂, wherein R is a phosphinyl substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphinyl groups include, but are not limited to, -P(=O)(CH₃)₂, -P(=O)(CH₂CH₃)₂, -P(=O)(t-Bu)₂, and -P(=O)(Ph)₂.

30 Phosphonic acid (phosphono): -P(=O)(OH)₂.

35 Phosphonate (phosphono ester): -P(=O)(OR)₂, where R is a phosphonate substituent, for example, -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphonate groups include, but are not limited to, -P(=O)(OCH₃)₂, -P(=O)(OCH₂CH₃)₂, -P(=O)(O-t-Bu)₂, and -P(=O)(OPh)₂.

35 Phosphoric acid (phosphonooxy): -OP(=O)(OH)₂.

5 Phosphate (phosphonoxy ester): $-OP(=O)(OR)_2$, where R is a phosphate substituent, for example, -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphate groups include, but are not limited to, $-OP(=O)(OCH_3)_2$, $-OP(=O)(OCH_2CH_3)_2$, $-OP(=O)(O-t-Bu)_2$, and $-OP(=O)(OPh)_2$.

10 Phosphorous acid: $-OP(OH)_2$.

15 Phosphite: $-OP(OR)_2$, where R is a phosphite substituent, for example, -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphite groups include, but are not limited to, $-OP(OCH_3)_2$, $-OP(OCH_2CH_3)_2$, $-OP(O-t-Bu)_2$, and $-OP(OPh)_2$.

20 Phosphoramidite: $-OP(OR^1)-NR^2_2$, where R¹ and R² are phosphoramidite substituents, for example, -H, a (optionally substituted) C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphoramidite groups include, but are not limited to, $-OP(OCH_2CH_3)-N(CH_3)_2$, $-OP(OCH_2CH_3)-N(i-Pr)_2$, and $-OP(OCH_2CH_2CN)-N(i-Pr)_2$.

25 Phosphoramidate: $-OP(=O)(OR^1)-NR^2_2$, where R¹ and R² are phosphoramidate substituents, for example, -H, a (optionally substituted) C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably -H, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Examples of phosphoramidate groups include, but are not limited to, $-OP(=O)(OCH_2CH_3)-N(CH_3)_2$, $-OP(=O)(OCH_2CH_3)-N(i-Pr)_2$, and $-OP(=O)(OCH_2CH_2CN)-N(i-Pr)_2$.

Alkylene

30 C₃₋₁₂ alkylene: The term "C₃₋₁₂ alkylene", as used herein, pertains to a bidentate moiety obtained by removing two hydrogen atoms, either both from the same carbon atom, or one from each of two

different carbon atoms, of a hydrocarbon compound having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms (unless otherwise specified), which may be aliphatic or alicyclic, and which may be saturated, partially unsaturated, or fully unsaturated. Thus, the term "alkylene" 5 includes the sub-classes alkenylene, alkynylene, cycloalkylene, etc., discussed below.

Examples of linear saturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups include, but are not limited to, -(CH₂)_n- where n is an integer from 3 to 12, for example, -CH₂CH₂CH₂- (propylene), -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂- (butylene), -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂- (pentylene) and -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂- (heptylene). 10

Examples of branched saturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups include, but are not limited to, -CH(CH₃)CH₂- , -CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂- , -CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂CH₂- , -CH₂CH(CH₃)CH₂- , -CH₂CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂- , -CH(CH₂CH₃)CH₂- , and -CH₂CH(CH₂CH₃)CH₂- . 15

Examples of linear partially unsaturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups (C₃₋₁₂ alkenylene, and alkynylene groups) include, but are not limited to, -CH=CH-CH₂- , -CH₂-CH=CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH₂-CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH=CH- , -CH=CH-CH=CH-CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH=CH-CH₂-CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH₂-CH=CH- , -CH=CH-CH₂-CH₂-CH=CH- , and -CH₂-C≡C-CCH₂- . 20

Examples of branched partially unsaturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups (C₃₋₁₂ alkenylene and alkynylene groups) include, but are not limited to, -C(CH₃)=CH- , -C(CH₃)=CH-CH₂- , -CH=CH-CH(CH₃)- and -C≡C-CH(CH₃)- . 25

Examples of alicyclic saturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups (C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkylenes) include, but are not limited to, cyclopentylene (e.g. cyclopent-1,3-ylene), and cyclohexylene (e.g. cyclohex-1,4-ylene). 30

Examples of alicyclic partially unsaturated C₃₋₁₂ alkylene groups (C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkylenes) include, but are not limited to, cyclopentenylene (e.g. 4-cyclopenten-1,3-ylene), cyclohexenylene 35

(e.g. 2-cyclohexen-1,4-ylene; 3-cyclohexen-1,2-ylene;
2,5-cyclohexadien-1,4-ylene).

Proliferative Diseases

5 One of ordinary skill in the art is readily able to determine whether or not a candidate compound treats a proliferative condition for any particular cell type. For example, assays which may conveniently be used to assess the activity offered by a particular compound are described in the examples below.

10 The term "proliferative disease" pertains to an unwanted or uncontrolled cellular proliferation of excessive or abnormal cells which is undesired, such as, neoplastic or hyperplastic growth, whether *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

15 Examples of proliferative conditions include, but are not limited to, benign, pre-malignant, and malignant cellular proliferation, including but not limited to, neoplasms and tumours (e.g. histocytoma, glioma, astrocytoma, osteoma), cancers (e.g. lung 20 cancer, small cell lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, bowel cancer, colon cancer, breast carcinoma, ovarian carcinoma, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, liver cancer, kidney cancer, bladder cancer, pancreas cancer, brain cancer, sarcoma, osteosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, melanoma), leukemias, psoriasis, bone diseases, 25 fibroproliferative disorders (e.g. of connective tissues), and atherosclerosis.

30 Any type of cell may be treated, including but not limited to, lung, gastrointestinal (including, e.g. bowel, colon), breast (mammary), ovarian, prostate, liver (hepatic), kidney (renal), bladder, pancreas, brain, and skin.

Methods of Treatment

35 As described above, the present invention provide the use of a compound of formula **III** in a method of therapy. Also provided is a method of treatment, comprising administering to a subject in need

of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of formula **III**, preferably in the form of a pharmaceutical composition, which is the third aspect of the present invention. The term "therapeutically effective amount" is an amount sufficient 5 to show benefit to a patient. Such benefit may be at least amelioration of at least one symptom. The actual amount administered, and rate and time-course of administration, will depend on the nature and severity of what is being treated. Prescription of treatment, e.g. decisions on dosage, is within the 10 responsibility of general practitioners and other medical doctors.

A compound may be administered alone or in combination with other treatments, either simultaneously or sequentially dependent upon the condition to be treated. Examples of treatments and therapies 15 include, but are not limited to, chemotherapy (the administration of active agents, including, e.g. drugs; surgery; and radiation therapy. If the compound of formula **III** bears a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group which may be removed *in vivo*, then the methods of treatment described in WO 00/12507 (ADEPT, GDEPT and 20 PDT) may be used.

Pharmaceutical compositions according to the present invention, and for use in accordance with the present invention, may comprise, in addition to the active ingredient, i.e. a compound of formula **III**, 25 a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier, buffer, stabiliser or other materials well known to those skilled in the art. Such materials should be non-toxic and should not interfere with the efficacy of the active ingredient. The precise nature of the carrier or other material will depend on the route of 30 administration, which may be oral, or by injection, e.g. cutaneous, subcutaneous, or intravenous.

Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration may be in tablet, capsule, powder or liquid form. A tablet may comprise a 35 solid carrier or an adjuvant. Liquid pharmaceutical compositions generally comprise a liquid carrier such as water, petroleum,

animal or vegetable oils, mineral oil or synthetic oil. Physiological saline solution, dextrose or other saccharide solution or glycols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol may be included. A capsule may comprise a 5 solid carrier such a gelatin.

For intravenous, cutaneous or subcutaneous injection, or injection at the site of affliction, the active ingredient will be in the form of a parenterally acceptable aqueous solution which is 10 pyrogen-free and has suitable pH, isotonicity and stability. Those of relevant skill in the art are well able to prepare suitable solutions using, for example, isotonic vehicles such as Sodium Chloride Injection, Ringer's Injection, Lactated Ringer's 15 Injection. Preservatives, stabilisers, buffers, antioxidants and/or other additives may be included, as required.

Includes Other Forms

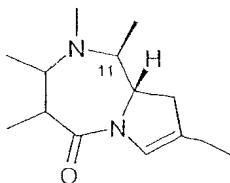
Unless otherwise specified, included in the above are the well known ionic, salt, solvate, and protected forms of these 20 substituents. For example, a reference to carboxylic acid ($-\text{COOH}$) also includes the anionic (carboxylate) form ($-\text{COO}^-$), a salt or solvate thereof, as well as conventional protected forms. Similarly, a reference to an amino group includes the protonated 25 form ($-\text{N}^+\text{HR}^1\text{R}^2$), a salt or solvate of the amino group, for example, a hydrochloride salt, as well as conventional protected forms of an amino group. Similarly, a reference to a hydroxyl group also includes the anionic form ($-\text{O}^-$), a salt or solvate thereof, as well as conventional protected forms.

30 Isomers, Salts and Solvates

Certain compounds may exist in one or more particular geometric, 35 optical, enantiomeric, diastereomeric, epimeric, atropic, stereoisomeric, tautomeric, conformational, or anomeric forms, including but not limited to, cis- and trans-forms; E- and Z-forms; c-, t-, and r- forms; endo- and exo-forms; R-, S-, and meso-forms; D- and L-forms; d- and l-forms; (+) and (-) forms; keto-, enol-,

and enolate-forms; syn- and anti-forms; synclinal- and anticlinal-forms; α - and β -forms; axial and equatorial forms; boat-, chair-, twist-, envelope-, and halfchair-forms; and combinations thereof, hereinafter collectively referred to as "isomers" (or "isomeric forms").

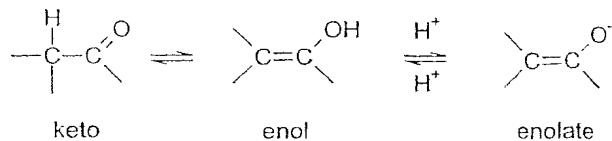
Preferably compounds of the present invention have the following stereochemistry at the C11 position:



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Note that, except as discussed below for tautomeric forms, specifically excluded from the term "isomers", as used herein, are structural (or constitutional) isomers (i.e. isomers which differ in the connections between atoms rather than merely by the position of atoms in space). For example, a reference to a methoxy group, $-\text{OCH}_3$, is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, a hydroxymethyl group, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$. Similarly, a reference to ortho-chlorophenyl is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, meta-chlorophenyl. However, a reference to a class of structures may well include structurally isomeric forms falling within that class (e.g. C_1 -alkyl includes n-propyl and iso-propyl; butyl includes n-, iso-, sec-, and tert-butyl; methoxyphenyl includes ortho-, meta-, and para-methoxyphenyl).

5 The above exclusion does not pertain to tautomeric forms, for example, keto-, enol-, and enolate-forms, as in, for example, the following tautomeric pairs: keto/enol (illustrated below), imine/enamine, amide/imino alcohol, amidine/amidine, nitroso/oxime, thioketone/enethiol, N-nitroso/hydroxyazo, and nitro/aci-nitro.



5 Note that specifically included in the term "isomer" are compounds with one or more isotopic substitutions. For example, H may be in any isotopic form, including ^1H , ^2H (D), and ^3H (T); C may be in any isotopic form, including ^{12}C , ^{13}C , and ^{14}C ; O may be in any isotopic form, including ^{16}O and ^{18}O ; and the like.

10 Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound includes all such isomeric forms, including (wholly or partially) racemic and other mixtures thereof. Methods for the preparation (e.g. asymmetric synthesis) and separation (e.g. fractional crystallisation and chromatographic means) of such isomeric forms are either known in the art or are readily obtained by adapting the methods taught herein, or known methods, in a known manner.

15 Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound also includes ionic, salt, solvate, and protected forms of thereof, for example, as discussed below.

20 It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle a corresponding salt of the active compound, for example, a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts are discussed in Berge, *et al.*, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **66**, 1-19 (1977).

25 For example, if the compound is anionic, or has a functional group which may be anionic (e.g. $-\text{COOH}$ may be $-\text{COO}^-$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable cation. Examples of suitable inorganic cations include, but are not limited to, alkali metal ions such as Na^+ and K^+ , alkaline earth cations such as Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} , and other cations such as Al^{3+} . Examples of suitable organic cations include, but are not limited to, ammonium ion (i.e. NH_4^+) and substituted ammonium ions (e.g. NH_3R^+ , NH_2R_2^+ , NHR_3^+ , NR_4^+). Examples of some suitable substituted ammonium ions are those derived from: 30 ethylamine, diethylamine, dicyclohexylamine, triethylamine, butylamine, ethylenediamine, ethanolamine, diethanolamine,

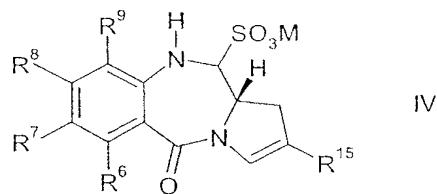
piperazine, benzylamine, phenylbenzylamine, choline, meglumine, and tromethamine, as well as amino acids, such as lysine and arginine. An example of a common quaternary ammonium ion is $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_4^+$.

5 If the compound is cationic, or has a functional group which may be cationic (e.g. $-\text{NH}_2$ may be $-\text{NH}_3^+$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable anion. Examples of suitable inorganic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following inorganic acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, sulfuric, sulfurous, 10 nitric, nitrous, phosphoric, and phosphorous.

Examples of suitable organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following organic acids:

15 2-acethoxybenzoic, acetic, ascorbic, aspartic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, cinnamic, citric, edetic, ethanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, fumaric, glutheptonic, gluconic, glutamic, glycolic, hydroxymaleic, hydroxynaphthalene carboxylic, isethionic, lactic, lactobionic, lauric, maleic, malic, methanesulfonic, mucic, oleic, oxalic, palmitic, pamoic, pantothenic, phenylacetic, phenylsulfonic, propionic, pyruvic, salicylic, stearic, succinic, sulfanilic, tartaric, toluenesulfonic, and valeric. Examples of 20 suitable polymeric organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following polymeric acids: tannic acid, carboxymethyl cellulose.

25 A particular salt form of interest can be formed from compounds of formula **III**, where R^{10} and R^{16} form an imine bond, by reacting said compound with a bisulphite salt to form a bisulphite derivative of the PBD. These compounds can be represented as:

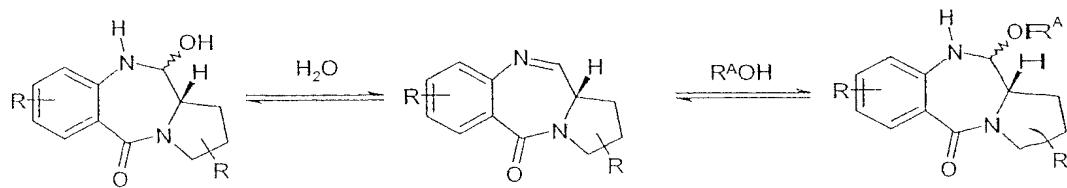


30 where M is a monovalent pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or if the compound is a dimer, the two M groups may together represent a

divalent pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and the other groups are as previously defined.

It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle 5 a corresponding solvate of the active compound. The term "solvate" is used herein in the conventional sense to refer to a complex of solute (e.g. active compound, salt of active compound) and solvent. If the solvent is water, the solvate may be conveniently referred 10 to as a hydrate, for example, a mono-hydrate, a di-hydrate, a tri-hydrate, etc.

Solvates of particular relevance to the present invention are those 15 where the solvent adds across the imine bond of the PBD moiety, which is illustrated below where the solvent is water or an alcohol (R^AOH, where R^A is an ether substituent as described above):



These forms can be called the carbinolamine and carbinolamine-ether 20 forms of the PBD. The balance of these equilibria depend on the conditions in which the compounds are found, as well as the nature of the moiety itself.

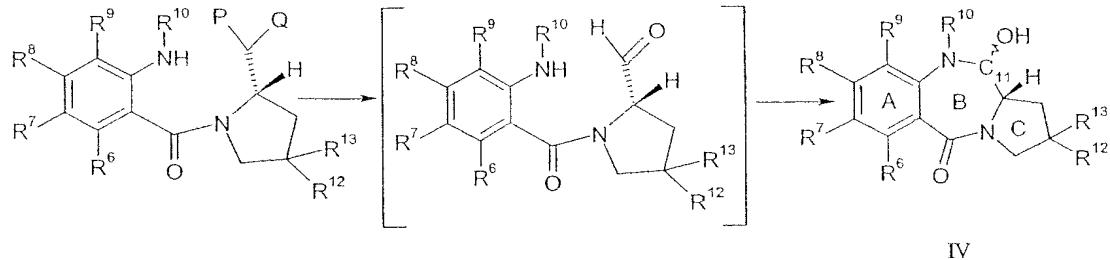
In general any nucleophilic solvent is capable of forming such 25 solvates as illustrated above for hydroxylic solvents. Other nucleophilic solvents include thiols and amines.

These solvates may be isolated in solid form, for example, by 30 lyophilisation.

General synthetic routes

The synthesis of PBD compounds is extensively discussed in WO 00/12508, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

As discussed in that patent application, a key step in a preferred route to PBDs is a cyclisation to produce the B-ring, involving generation of an aldehyde (or functional equivalent thereof) at what will be the 11-position, and attack thereon by the Pro-N10-nitrogen:



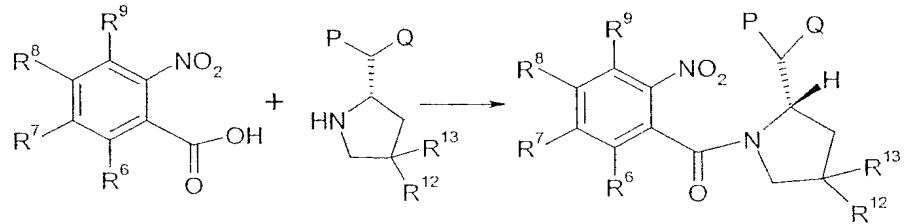
IV

wherein the substituents are as defined in the second aspect of the invention. The "masked aldehyde" -CPQ may be an acetal or thioacetal, in which case the cyclisation involves unmasking.

Alternatively, it may be an alcohol -CHOH, in which case the reaction involves oxidation, e.g. by means of TPAP, TEMPO or DMSO (Swern oxidation).

In this reaction, R¹² is preferably O-R¹⁴, i.e. a protected hydroxy group, and R¹³ is H.

The masked aldehyde compound can be produced by condensing a corresponding 2,4-disubstituted pyrrolidine with a 2-nitrobenzoic acid:

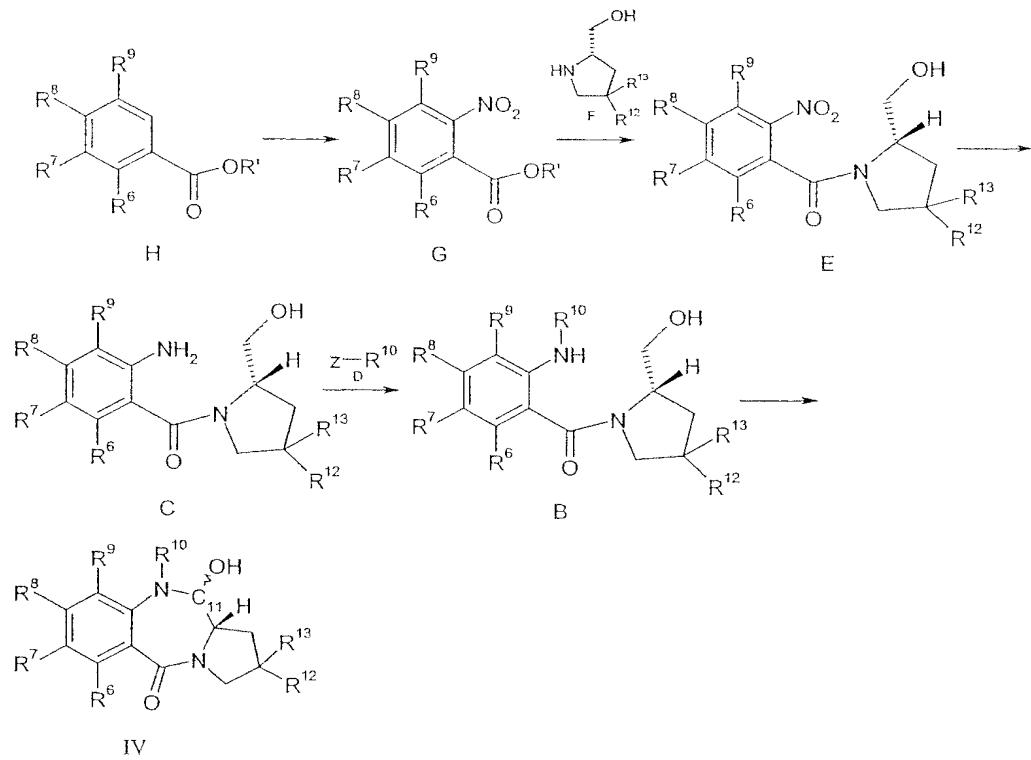


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The nitro group can then be reduced to -NH₂ and protected by reaction with a suitable agent, e.g. a chloroformate, which provides the removable nitrogen protecting group in the compound of formula IV.

25

A process involving the oxidation-cyclization procedure is illustrated in scheme 1 (an alternative type of cyclisation will be described later with reference to scheme 2).



Scheme 1

Exposure of the alcohol (B) (in which the Pro-N10-nitrogen is generally protected as carbamate) to tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (TPAP) / N-methylmorpholine N-oxide (NMO) over A4 sieves 10 results in oxidation accompanied by spontaneous B-ring closure to afford the desired product IV. The TPAP/NMO oxidation procedure is found to be particularly convenient for small scale reactions while the use of DMSO-based oxidation methods, particularly Swern 15 oxidation, proves superior for larger scale work (e.g. > 1 g). A particularly preferred oxidising agent is (diacetoxyiodo)benzene (1.1 eq) and TEMPO (0.1 eq) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 .

The uncyclized alcohol (B) may be prepared by the reaction of a nitrogen protection reagent of formula D, which is preferably a

chloroformate or acid chloride, to a solution of the amino alcohol C, generally in solution, generally in the presence of a base such as pyridine (preferably 2 equivalents) at a moderate temperature (e.g. at 0°C). Under these conditions little or no O-acylation is 5 usually observed.

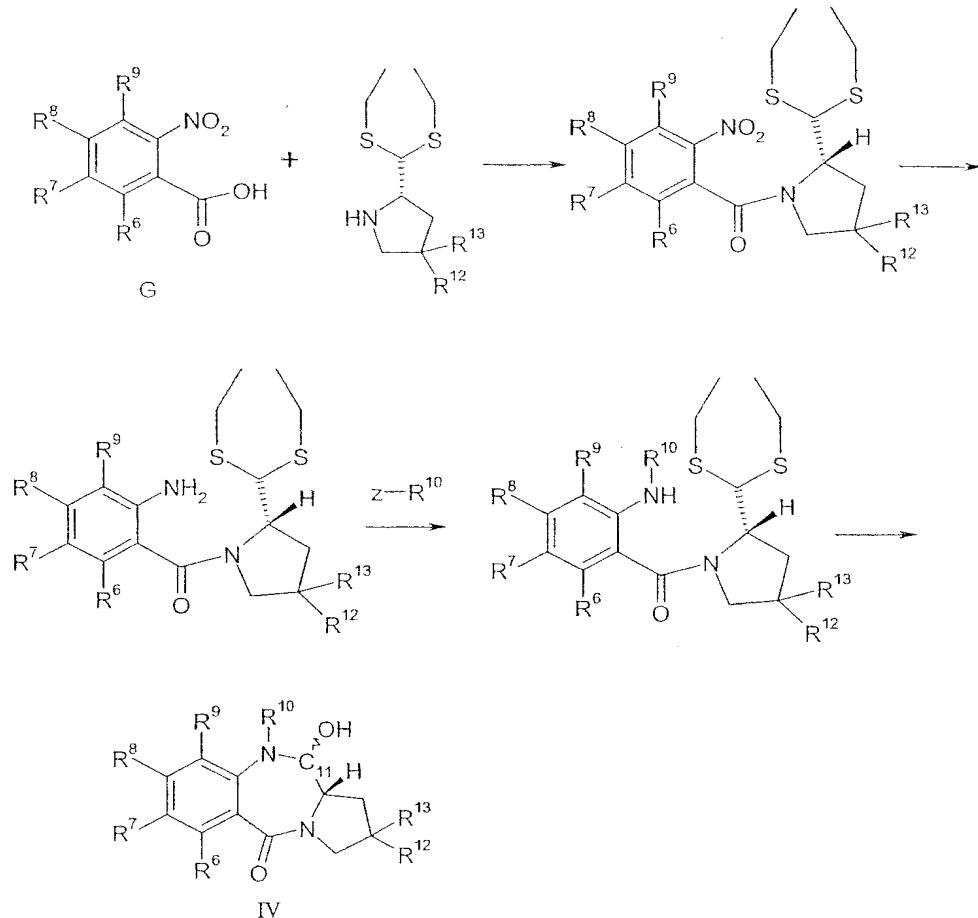
The key amino alcohol C may be prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitro compound E, by choosing a method which will leave the rest of the molecule intact. Treatment of E with tin 10 (II) chloride in a suitable solvent, e.g. refluxing methanol, generally affords, after the removal of the tin salts, the desired product in high yield.

Exposure of E to hydrazine/Raney nickel avoids the production of 15 tin salts and may result in a higher yield of C, although this method is less compatible with the range of possible C and A-ring substituents. For instance, if there is C-ring unsaturation (either in the ring itself, or in R₂ or R₃), this technique may be 20 unsuitable. Another suitable means of reduction would be catalytic hydrogenation using palladium on carbon as a catalyst.

The nitro compound of formula E may be prepared by coupling the appropriate o-nitrobenzoyl chloride to a compound of formula F, e.g. in the presence of K₂CO₃ at -25°C under a N₂ atmosphere. 25 Compounds of formula F can be readily prepared, for example by olefination of the ketone derived from L-trans-hydroxy proline. The ketone intermediate can also be exploited by conversion to the enol triflate for use in palladium mediated coupling reactions.

30 The o-nitrobenzoyl chloride is synthesised from the o-nitrobenzoic acid (or alkyl ester after hydrolysis) of formula G, which itself is prepared from the vanillic acid (or alkyl ester) derivative H. Many of these are commercially available and some are disclosed in Althuis, T.H. and Hess, H.J., *J. Medicinal Chem.*, 20(1), 146-266 35 (1977).

Alternative Cyclisation (Scheme 2)



5 In scheme 1, the final or penultimate step was an oxidative cyclisation. An alternative, using thioacetal coupling, is shown in scheme 2. Mercury-mediated unmasking causes cyclisation to the protected PBD compound IV.

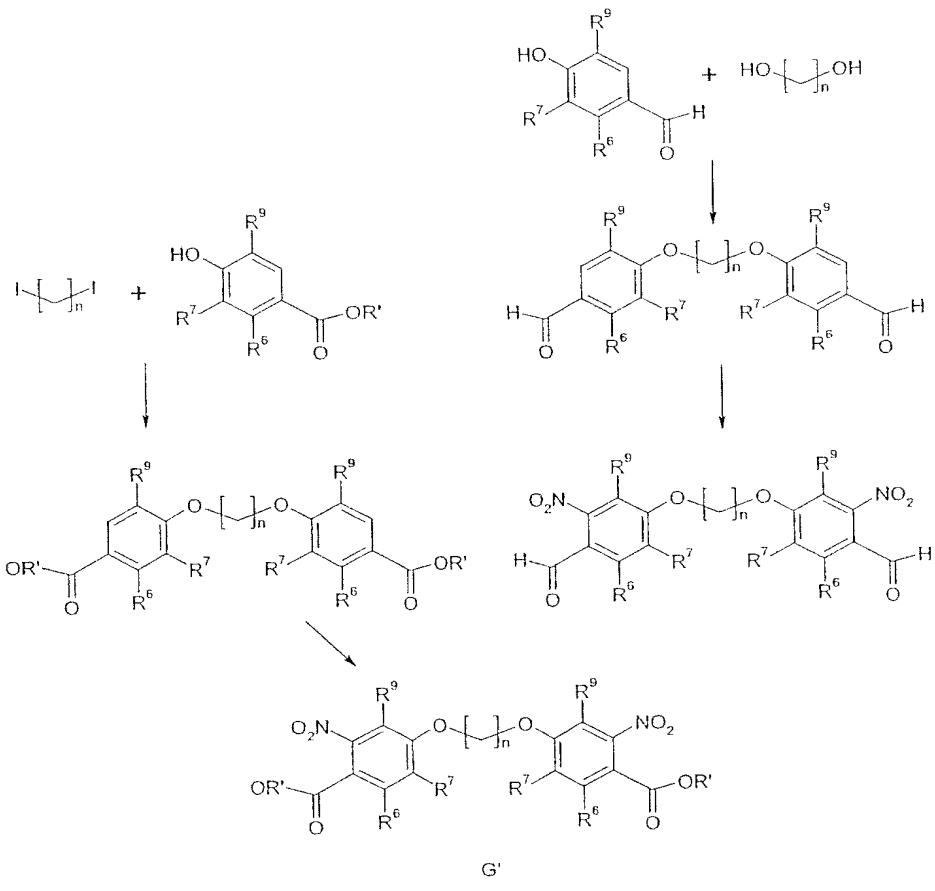
10 The thioacetal compound may be prepared as shown in scheme 2: the thioacetal protected C-ring [prepared via a literature method: Langley, D.R. & Thurston, D.E., *J. Organic Chemistry*, 52, 91-97 (1987)] is coupled to the *o*-nitrobenzoic acid (or alkyl ester after hydrolysis) (G) using a literature procedure. The resulting nitro compound cannot be reduced by hydrogenation, because of the thioacetal group, so the tin(II) chloride method is used to afford

15

the amine. This is then N-protected, e.g., by reaction with a chloroformate or acid chloride, such as 2,2,2-trichloroethylchloroformate.

5 Acetal-containing C-rings can be used as an alternative in this type of route with deprotection involving other methods, including the use of acidic conditions.

Dimer Synthesis (Scheme 3)



10

Scheme 3

15 PBD dimers may be synthesized using the strategy developed for the synthesis of the protected PBD monomers. The synthesis routes illustrated in scheme 3 show compounds when the dimer linkage is of the formula $-O-(CH_2)_n-O-$. The step of dimer formation is normally

carried out to form a bis(nitro acid) G'. This compound can then be treated as compound G in either scheme 1 or scheme 2 above.

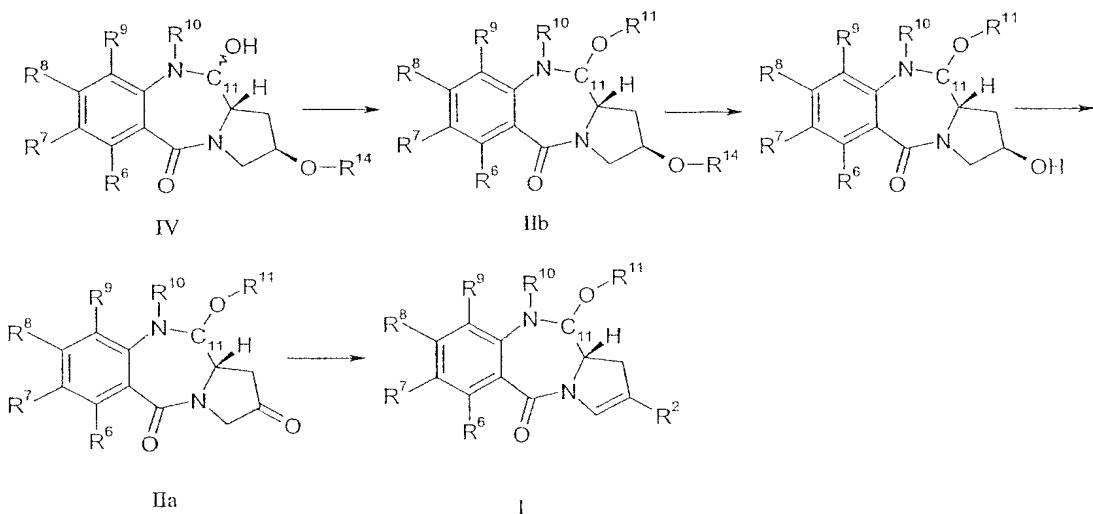
The bis(nitro acid) G' may be obtained by nitrating (e.g. using 70% nitric acid) the bis(carboxylic acid). This can be synthesised by alkylation of two equivalents of the relevant benzoic acid with the appropriate diiodoalkane under basic conditions. Many benzoic acids are commercially available and others can be synthesised by conventional methods. Alternatively, the relevant benzoic acid esters can be joined together by a Mitsunobu etherification with an appropriate alkanediol, followed by nitration, and then hydrolysis (not illustrated).

An alternative synthesis of the bis(nitro acid) involves oxidation of the bis(nitro aldehyde), e.g. with potassium permanganate. This can be obtained in turn by direct nitration of the bis(aldehyde), e.g. with 70% HNO₃. Finally, the bis(aldehyde) can be obtained via the Mitsunobu etherification of two equivalents of the benzoic aldehyde with the appropriate alkanediol.

Alternative routes to PBDs

Alternative methods of synthesising N10 protected PBDs are disclosed in co-pending application PCT/GB2004/003873 (filed 10 September 2004) which claims priority from GB0321295.8 (filed 11 September 2003), which describes the use of isocyanate intermediates.

Formation of Compound of formula I



Following cyclisation to form the B-ring, the C11-alcohol **IV** is then preferably re-protected, by conventional means to provide **IIb**.

5 For example, if R^{11} is TBS, the protection can take place by
 reacting **IV** with TBSOTf and 2,6-lutidine. Cleavage of the C2-
 protecting group from **IIb** then provides the C2 alcohol. For
 example, where the C2 protecting group (R^{14}) is acyl, this
 deprotection may be performed by addition of an aqueous solution of
 10 K_2CO_3 .

This reprotection at the C11 position and deprotection of the C2 alcohol allows subsequent reaction of selectively the C2 alcohol position leaving the C11 position unaffected.

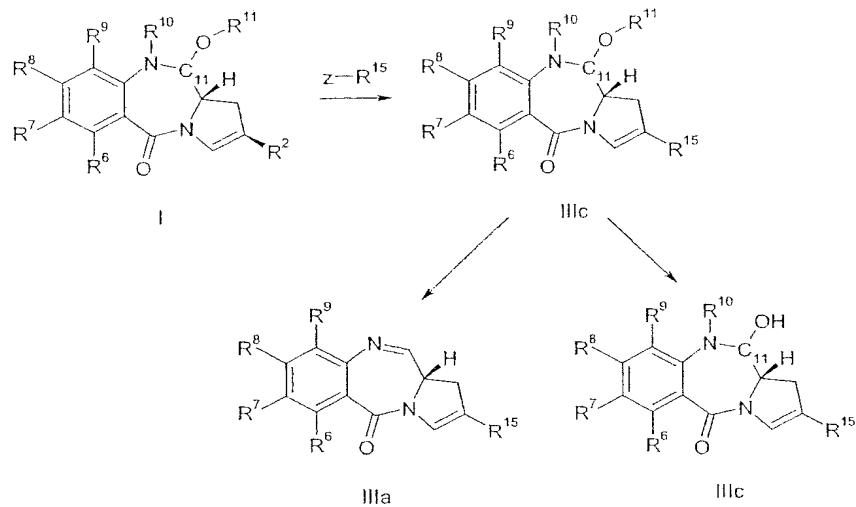
15 The C2-alcohol may then be oxidized to the ketone **IIb**. Preferably this oxidation is performed under Swern conditions, in good yield. However, other oxidation methods involving TPAP or the Dess Martin reagent also provide the ketone in good yield.

20 If R^2 in the compound of formula **I** is $-OSO_2CH_3$, $-OSO_2(C_nF_{2n+1})$ where $n=0,1$ or 4 , or $-OSO_2R^S$, then the conversion from **IIb** may be achieved by treatment with the appropriate anhydride. For example, if R^2 is trifluoromethyl that reaction with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride in DCM in the presence of pyridine.

If R^2 in the compound of formula I is $-I$ or $-Br$, then the conversion from IIb may be achieved by reaction with hydrazine and iodine or bromine respectively.

If R^2 in the compound of formula I is $-Cl$, then the conversion from IIb may be achieved by reaction with a phosphorous oxychloride (e.g. $POCl_3$).

Synthesis of compounds of formula III



This compound of formula I may be reacted under a variety of conditions to yield PBD precursor molecules with pendant groups coupled at the C2 position IIc.

In particular, the use of palladium catalysed coupling is preferred, such as Suzuki, Stille and Heck coupling. The palladium catalyst may be any suitable catalyst, for example $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, $Pd(OCOCH_3)_2$, $PdCl_2$, $Pd(dba)_3$. The compounds which are coupled may be any suitable reactant, e.g. for Heck, alkenes with an sp^2 H; for Stille, organostannanes; and for Suzuki, organoboron derivatives.

In a preferred aspect of the invention, the coupling may be performed under microwave conditions. Typically, the palladium catalyst, such as $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, is solid supported, for example on polystyrene, to facilitate work-up and allow potential recycling of

catalyst. Unreacted boronic acid can be sequestered following complete consumption of triflate using PS-DEAM, with a phase separator cartridge being used to isolate the coupling product. Such a method allows for the parallel synthesis of more than one (e.g. up to 10, 20 or 30) compound at the same time.

The imine bond in the compound of formula **IIIc** can be unprotected by standard methods to yield the unprotected compound **IIIa** (which may be in its carbinolamine or carboinolamine ether form, depending on the solvents used). For example if R^{10} is Alloc, then the deprotection is carried using palladium to remove the N10 protecting group, followed by the elimination of water. If R^{10} is Troc, then the deprotection is carried out using a Cd/Pb couple to yield the compound of formula **IIIa**.

If the nitrogen protecting group (R^{10}) is such that the desired end product still contains it, e.g. if it is removable *in vivo*, then the compound of formula **IIIb** may be synthesised by removal of the oxygen protecting groups under suitable conditions.

Further Preferences
The following preferences may apply to all aspects of the invention as described above, or may relate to a single aspect. The preferences may be combined together in any combination.

R^6 to R^9
If the compound is a dimer, it is preferred that the dimer bridge is of formula $-O-(CH_2)_n-O-$, where n is from 3 to 12, and more preferably 3 to 7. It is preferred that the substituents R^8 join to form the dimer bridge.

R^9 is preferably H.

R^6 is preferably selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, nitro and halo, and is more preferably H or halo, and most preferably is H.

5 R^7 and R^8 (when the compound is not a dimer) are preferably independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', and halo, and more preferably independently selected from H, OH and OR, where R is preferably selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₁₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₁₀ aryl groups. Particularly preferred substituents at the 7- and 8- positions are OMe and OCH₂Ph.

10 In the first aspect of the invention, R^{10} is preferably Troc. R^{11} is preferably a silyl oxygen protecting group (more preferably TBS) or THP. R^2 is preferably triflate. Accordingly, in a particularly preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the invention, R^{10} is Troc, R^{11} is TBS or THP and R^2 is triflate.

15 In the second aspect of the invention, R^{14} is preferably a methyl ester. R^{11} is preferably a silyl oxygen protecting group (more preferably TBS) or THP. Accordingly, in a particularly preferred embodiment of the second aspect of the invention R^{14} is a methyl ester and R^{11} is TBS or THP. Furthermore, R^{10} is preferably Troc.

20 In some embodiments of the third aspect of the invention, R^{10} is preferably Troc and R^{16} is O-R¹¹, wherein R^{11} is preferably a silyl oxygen protecting group (more preferably TBS) or THP.

25 In other embodiments of the third aspect of the invention, R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

30 In the third aspect of the invention R^{15} is preferably selected from optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups and optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl groups, which group has a carbon-carbon double or triple bond conjugated to the double bond in the C-ring.

35 Novel compounds of the present invention preferably have R^{10} and R^{16} forming a double bond between N10 and C11. Preferably, the novel compounds of the invention are dimers through C8, i.e. the R^8 groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the

formula $-X-R''-X-$ linking the monomers. More preferably, the dimer bridge is of formula $-O-(CH_2)_n-O-$, where n is 3 to 12, more preferably 3, 5, or 7. The preferences for R^6 , R^7 and R^9 are as expressed above. R^{15} is preferably selected from:

5 (i) optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl groups;
(ii) substituted C_2 alkyl groups; and
(iii) optionally substituted C_{3-7} alkyl groups.

In particular groups (ii) and (iii) above, preferably have a
10 carbon-carbon double or triple bond conjugated to that between C_2 and C_3 .

Group (i) above are more preferably optionally substituted C_{5-7} aryl groups, and most preferably optionally substituted phenyl groups.

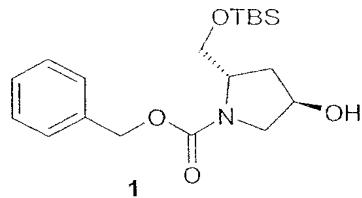
15 Group (ii) is preferably either a vinyl group substituted with an amido group, and more preferably with an amido group which is $-C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$; or a ethynyl group substituted with an optionally substituted C_{5-7} aryl group, more preferably phenyl.

20 Group (iii) is preferably an optionally substituted propylene group, for example $-CH=CH-CH_3$.

If R is optionally substituted C_{1-12} alkyl, it is preferred that it
25 is optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl.

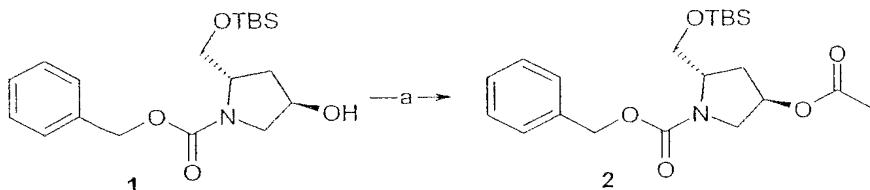
Examples

Example 1 - Formation of key dimer intermediate (2-
 [[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy]-1,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-
 5 pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (13))
 (2S,4R)-N-(Benzylloxycarbonyl)-2-t-butyldimethylsilyloxymethyl-4-
 hydroxypyrrolidine (1)



Compound 1 is formed in high yield in a four step process known in
 10 the art starting from *trans*-4-hydroxy-L-proline (S.J. Gregson et
 al., *J. Med. Chem.*, 2004, 1161-1174).

(2S,4R)-N-(Benzylloxycarbonyl)-2-t-butyldimethylsilyloxymethyl-4-
 oxyacetylpyrrolidine (2)



15

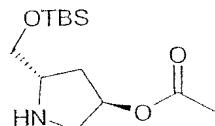
(a) pyridine, Ac_2O , DMAP, THF, 16 h, 96%;

Pyridine (18.3 g, 18.7 mL, 232 mmol, 1.1 eq), acetic anhydride
 (23.6 g, 21.8 mL, 232 mmol, 1.1 eq) and DMAP (5.14 g, 42.1 mmol,
 20 0.2 eq) were added to a stirred solution of 1 (76.9 g, 211 mmol) in
 dry THF (1 L). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 hours after
 which time TLC (95:5 v/v CHCl_3 /MeOH) showed the complete
 consumption of starting material. Excess solvent was removed by
 rotary evaporation and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (1 L),
 25 washed with 1N HCl (2 x 1 L), H_2O (1 L), brine (1 L) and dried
 (MgSO_4). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded
 acetate 2 as a colourless oil (80.7 g, 94%): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3)
 (rotamers) δ 7.36-7.12 (m, 5H), 5.30-5.10 (m, 3H), 4.09-3.97 (m,

2H), 3.74-3.55 (m, 3H), 2.36-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 6H), 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.03 and 0.00 (s x 2, 6H); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 430 ([M + Na]⁺, 95), 408 ([M + H]⁺, 100).

5

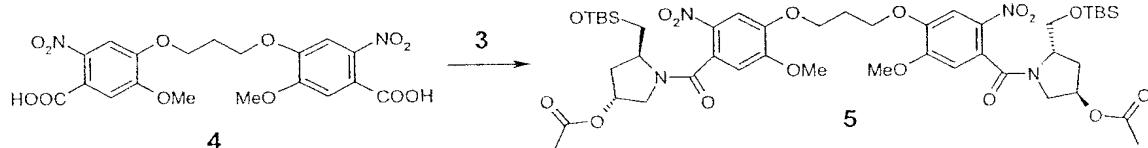
(2S, 4R)-2-t-Butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine (3)



3

A slurry of silyl ether **2** (1.95 g, 4.80 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (0.17 g) in absolute ethanol (10 mL) was subjected to Parr hydrogenation at 10 45 Psi for 16 h after which time TLC (95:5 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) showed the complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite to remove the Pd/C, and the filter pad was washed repeatedly with ethanol. Excess solvent was removed by rotary evaporation under reduced pressure to afford the 15 amine **3** as a pale orange waxy oil (1.28 g, 98%): IR (CHCl₃) 3315, 2930, 2858, 1739, 1652, 1472, 1435, 1375, 1251, 1088, 838, 779, 667 cm⁻¹.

1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(2S,4R)-(5-methoxy-2-nitro-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis[2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl]-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine] (5)



A catalytic amount of DMF (2 drops) was added to a stirred solution of the nitro-acid **4** (8.12 g, 17.4 mmol)¹ and oxalyl chloride (3.80 mL, 5.52 g, 43.5 mmol, 2.5 eq) in dry THF (250 mL). The initial precipitate dissolved gradually and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. The resulting acid chloride solution was added dropwise to a stirred mixture of the amine **3** (11.9 g, 43.5 mmol, 2.5 eq), TEA (9.71 mL, 7.05 g, 69.7 mmol, 4.0 eq) and H₂O (2.26 mL) in THF (100 mL) at 0°C

(ice/acetone) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 2.5 h. Excess THF was removed by rotary evaporation and the resulting residue was partitioned between H₂O (400 mL) and EtOAc (400 mL). The layers were allowed to separate and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with saturated NH₄Cl (200 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (200 mL), brine (200 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent gave the crude product as a dark oil.

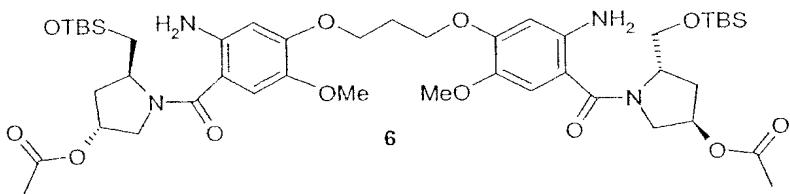
5 Purification by flash chromatography (99.7:0.3 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) isolated the pure amide 5 as a light yellow glass (13.3 g, 78%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (s, 2H), 6.60 (s, 2H), 5.06 (br s, 2H), 4.44 (br s, 2H), 4.25-4.20 (m, 4H), 4.10-4.08 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.64-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.11-3.08 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.26 (m, 4H), 2.13-2.08 (m, 2H), 1.92 (s, 6H), 0.80 (s, 18H), 0.00 (s x 2, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.0, 166.3, 154.5, 148.2, 137.4, 128.0, 127.2, 109.2, 108.5, 72.9, 65.6, 62.6, 57.4, 56.5, 54.8, 33.0, 28.6, 25.8, 21.0, 18.1; MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 1000 ([M + Na]⁺, 39), 978 ([M + H]⁺, 63), 977 (M⁺, 100), 812 (13).

10

15

20

1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(2S,4R)-(5-methoxy-2-amino-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis[2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl)-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine] (6)

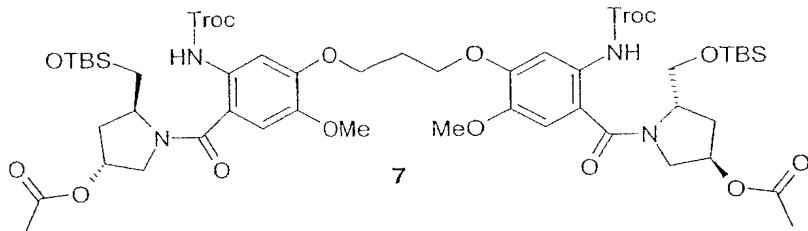


25 Sodium dithionite (16.59 g, 95.27 mmol, 5 eq) was added to a stirred solution of amide 5 (18.6 g, 19.1 mmol) in H₂O (200 mL) and THF (400 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h after which time excess THF was removed by rotary evaporation and the resulting residue was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 250 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with H₂O (300 mL), brine (300 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of the

30

solvent yielded the crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (80:20 v/v hexane/EtOAc then gradient to neat EtOAc) to afford the product **6** as a yellow foam (9.53 g, 55%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (rotamers) δ 6.70 and 6.67 (s × 2, 2H), 6.25 and 6.23 (s × 2, 2H), 5.20 (br s, 2H), 4.49 (br s, 4H), 4.16-4.05 (m, 6H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 3.68-3.57 (m, 4H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 4H), 2.12-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.96 (s, 6H), 0.85 (s, 18H), 0.01 and 0.00 (s × 2, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 170.0, 141.1, 116.3, 113.1, 102.3, 102.1, 102.0, 66.2, 65.3, 65.2, 57.0, 28.9, 18.2; MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 946 ([M⁺ + 29, 43], 933 ([M + 16]⁺, 61), 932 ([M + 15]⁺, 100), 918 ([M + H]⁺, 72).

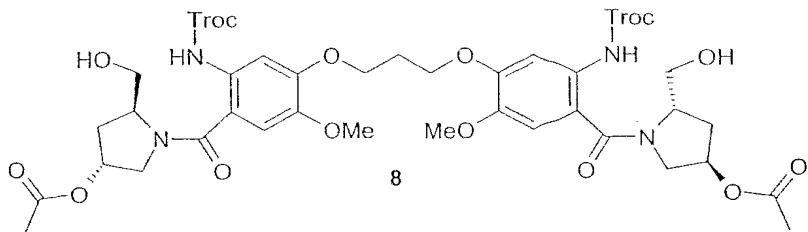
1,1'-[[{(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(2S,4R)-[5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonylamino)carbonyl]bis[2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl]-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine} (7)



A solution of 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (3.58 mL, 5.50 g, 26.0 mmol, 2.2 eq) in dry DCM (60 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of anhydrous pyridine (3.82 mL, 3.80 g, 47.2 mmol, 4.0 eq) and bis-aniline **6** (10.8 g, 11.8 mmol) in dry DCM (150 mL) at -10 °C (liq. N₂/ethanediol). After 16 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (2 × 150 mL), saturated CuSO₄ (150 mL), H₂O (150 mL), brine (150 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent yielded a yellow viscous oil which was purified by flash chromatography (70:30 v/v hexane/EtOAc) to afford the product **7** as a white glass (13.8 g, 92%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.42 (br s, 1H), 7.83 (s, 2H), 6.76 and 6.74 (s × 2, 2H), 5.21 (br s, 2H), 4.79 and 4.73 (d × 2, 4H, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 4.56 (br s, 2H), 4.26-4.23 (m, 4H), 4.09-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 3.72-3.68 (m, 2H), 3.60 (br s, 4H), 2.40-2.32 (m, 4H), 2.23-2.08 (m, 2H), 1.95 (s, 6H), 0.85 (s, 18H), 0.01 and 0.00

(s \times 2, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 169.2, 151.9, 151.5, 150.8, 143.4, 132.6, 114.4, 111.7, 95.3, 74.4, 65.5, 65.4, 57.3, 56.4, 32.5, 28.8, 25.8, 21.1, 18.1, 14.9; MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 1306 ([M + 38] $^{+}$, 92), 1304 ([M + 36] $^{+}$, 100), 1282 ([M + 14] $^{+}$, 97), 1280 ([M + 12] $^{+}$, 55).

1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diy1)dioxy]bis[(2S,4R)-[5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonylamino)carbonyl]bis(2-hydroxymethyl-4-oxyacetyl)pyrrolidine] (8)

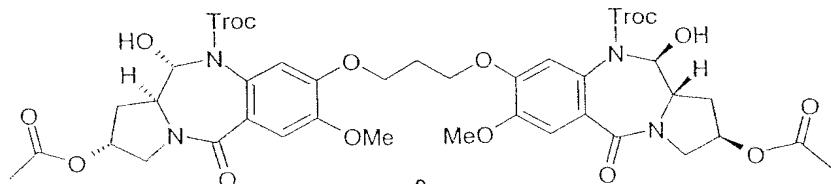


10

A mixture of glacial acetic acid (310 mL) and H_2O (100 mL) was added to a solution of 7 (13.8 g, 10.9 mmol) in THF (250 mL) and was stirred for 16 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (750 mL) and neutralised with saturated NaHCO_3 (5 L). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 \times 500 mL) and the organic layers were combined, washed with brine (1 L) and dried (MgSO_4). TLC (60:40 v/v hexane/EtOAc) revealed the complete disappearance of the starting material. Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.7:0.3 v/v CHCl_3 /MeOH then gradient to 96:4 v/v CHCl_3 /MeOH) to provide the product 8 as a white glass (11.6 g, > 100%): ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.92 (br s, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 5.18 (br s, 2H), 4.78 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.72 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.50 (br s, 2H), 4.22-4.19 (m, 4H), 4.00 (br s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.76-3.52 (m, 6H), 2.32-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.09-2.04 (m, 2H) 1.94 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 152.2, 149.8, 145.0, 111.3, 106.5, 95.6, 74.4, 72.5, 65.4, 64.1, 58.7, 56.5, 56.3, 33.6, 29.1, 21.1.

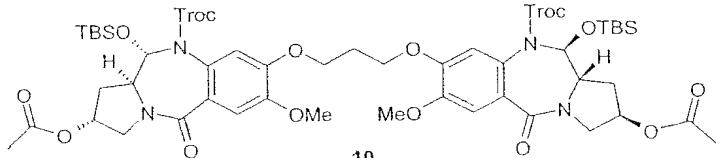
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1,1'-[[{(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy}bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*,2*R*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-hydroxy-7-methoxy-2-oxyacetyl-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (9)



5 TEMPO (0.69 g, 4.42 mmol, 0.4 eq) and BAIB (15.7 g, 48.7 mmol, 4.4 eq) were added to a stirred solution of diol 8 (11.5 g, 11.1 mmol) in DCM (150 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 2 h and diluted with DCM (400 mL), washed with saturated NaHSO_3 (500 mL), saturated NaHCO_3 (500 mL), brine (200 mL) and dried (MgSO_4).
10 Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.9:0.1 v/v $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ then gradient to 99.7:0.3 v/v $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$) to provide the product 9 as a light yellow glass (4.43 g, 39%): ^1H NMR (400
15 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.28 (s, 2H, **H6**), 6.84 (s, 2H, **H9**), 5.68 (d, 2H, J = 9.1 Hz, **H11**), 5.37-5.35 (m, 2H, **H2**), 5.18 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, **Troc CH₂**), 4.32-4.21 (m, 6H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, **Troc CH₂**), 4.03 (dd, 2H, J = 13.2, 2.6 Hz, **H3**), 3.92 (s, 6H, $\text{OCH}_3 \times 2$), 3.39-3.69 (m, 4H, **H3** and **H11a**), 2.39-2.35 (m, 6H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ and **H1**), 2.03 (s, 6H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2 \times 2$); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4 (CH_3CO_2), 167.4 (C_{quat}), 154.3 (C_{quat}), 150.5 (C_{quat}), 149.1 (C_{quat}), 127.4 (C_{quat}), 124.9 (C_{quat}), 114.1 (C9), 110.9 (C6), 95.0 (**Troc CCl₃**), 87.5 (C11), 75.0 (**Troc CH₂**), 71.4 (C2), 65.5 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 58.4 (C11a), 56.1 (OCH_3), 51.1 (C3), 35.8 (C1), 29.1 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 21.0 (CH_3CO_2); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 1058 ([M + Na]⁺, 100).

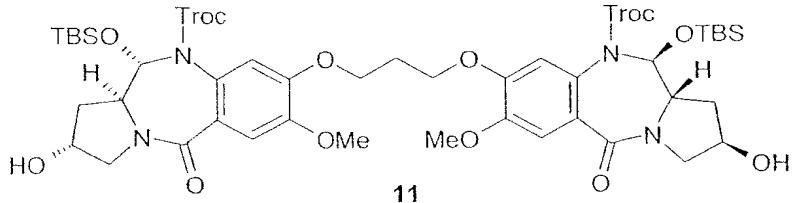
1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*,2*R*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-oxyacetyl-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (10)



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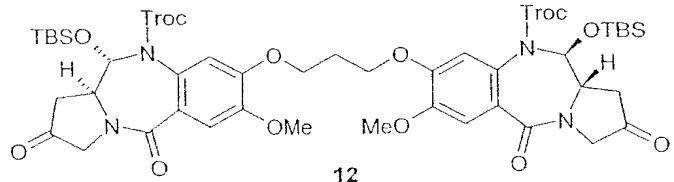
TBSOTf (2.70 mL, 3.10 g, 11.7 mmol, 3.0 eq) was added to a stirred solution of bis-alcohol **9** (4.05 g, 3.91 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (1.82 mL, 1.68 g, 15.6 mmol, 4.0 eq) in DCM (50 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 2.5 h and diluted with DCM (150 mL), washed with saturated CuSO_4 (2 X 100 mL), saturated NaHCO_3 (100 mL), brine (200 mL) and dried (MgSO_4). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.9:0.1 v/v $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$) to provide the product **10** as a white glass (5.05 g, >100%): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.05 (s, 2H, **H6**), 6.52 (s, 2H, **H9**), 5.53 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz, **H11**), 5.14 (br s, 2H, **H2**), 4.99 (d, 2H, $J = 12.0$ Hz, **Troc CH₂**), 4.06-3.87 (m, 8H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, **Troc CH₂** and **H11a**), 3.71 (s, 6H, OCH_3 x 2), 3.48-3.43 (m, 4H, **H3**), 2.21-2.11 (m, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ and **H1**), 2.03-1.96 (m, 2H, **H1**), 1.81 (s, 6H, CH_3CO_2 x 2), 0.63 (s, 18H, **TBS CH₃** x 6), 0.00 (s x 2, 12H, **TBS CH₃** x 4); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.3 (CH_3CO_2), 167.9 (**C_{quat}**), 153.6 (**C_{quat}**), 150.4 (**C_{quat}**), 149.2 (**C_{quat}**), 127.9 (**C_{quat}**), 125.5 (**C_{quat}**), 113.9 (**C9**), 110.7 (**C6**), 95.2 (**Troc CCl₃**), 88.2 (**C11**), 74.7 (**Troc CH₂**), 71.7 (**C2**), 65.0 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 60.5 (**C11a**), 56.1 (OCH_3), 51.2 (**C3**), 36.2 (**C1**), 28.8 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 25.6 (**TBS CH₃**), 21.0 (CH_3CO_2), 17.8 (**TBS C_{quat}**), 14.2 and 14.1 (**TBS CH₃**); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 1285 ([M + 21]⁺, 100), 1265 ([M + H]⁺, 75).

1,1'-[{(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*,2*R*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]} (11)



5 A solution of K_2CO_3 (93 mg, 0.67 mmol, 5.0 eq) in H_2O (2 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of acetate **10** (170 mg, 0.13 mmol) in $MeOH$ (3 mL). The initial colorless solution eventually turned yellow and the formation of a white precipitate was
10 observed. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h when TLC (95:5 v/v $CHCl_3/MeOH$) showed the complete consumption of the starting material. Excess solvent was removed by rotary evaporation and the mixture was carefully neutralized with 1N HCl to pH 7. The resulting mixture was extracted with $EtOAc$ (3 x 25 mL) and the combined organic layers were then washed with brine (40 mL) and dried ($MgSO_4$). Filtration and removal of the solvent afforded the product **11** as a white glass (151 mg, 95%): 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 6.94 (s, 2H, **H6**), 6.52 (s, 2H, **H9**), 5.53 (d, 2H, J = 9.0 Hz, **H11**), 5.00 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, **Troc CH₂**), 4.36-4.35 (m, 2H, **H2**), 4.06-3.82 (m, 8H, $OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$, **Troc CH₂** and **H3**), 3.61 (s, 6H, OCH_3 x 2), 3.54-3.48 (m, 2H, **H11a**), 3.39-3.34 (m, 2H, **H3**), 2.96 and 2.95 (br s x 2, 2H, OH x 2), 2.21-2.20 (m, 2H, $OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 2.19-2.08 (m, 2H, **H1**), 1.90-1.74 (m, 2H, **H1**), 0.64 (s, 18H, **TBS CH₃** x 6), 0.00 (s, 12H, **TBS CH₃** x 4); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 168.5 (C_{quat}), 153.6 (C_{quat}), 150.3 (C_{quat}), 149.1 (C_{quat}), 127.9 (C_{quat}), 125.4 (C_{quat}), 113.9 (C9), 110.7 (C6), 95.2 (Troc CCl_3), 88.3 (C11), 74.7 (Troc CH_2), 69.4 (C2), 65.0 ($OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 60.9 (C11a), 55.9 (OCH_3), 54.1 (C3), 38.8 (C1), 28.9 ($OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 25.6 (TBS CH_3), 17.8 (TBS C_{quat}); MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 1196 ([M + 16]⁺, 100), 1181 ([M + H]⁺, 82).

1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-oxo-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (12)

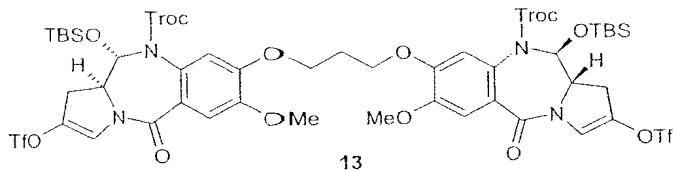


5

A solution of anhydrous DMSO (0.82 mL, 0.90 g, 11.5 mmol, 6.0 eq) in dry DCM (20 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of oxaryl chloride (2.88 mL of a 2 M solution in DCM, 5.76 mmol, 3.0 eq) under a nitrogen atmosphere at -60°C (liq N₂/CHCl₃). After stirring at -55°C for 1.5 h, a solution of the substrate 11 (2.26 g, 1.92 mmol) in dry DCM (30 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture, which was then stirred for a further 2 h at -45°C. A solution of TEA (10.8 mL, 7.82 g; 71.7 mmol, 4.2 eq) in dry DCM (90 mL) was added dropwise to the mixture and stirred for a further 30 min. The reaction mixture was left to warm to 0°C, washed with cold 1 N HCl (2 x 50 mL), H₂O (50 mL), brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent *in vacuo* afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (70:30 v/v hexane/EtOAc then gradient to 40:60 v/v hexane/EtOAc) to afford carbinolamine 12 as a white glass (1.62 g, 72%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.02 (s, 2H, H6), 6.54 (s, 2H, H9), 5.59 (d, 2H, J = 9.2 Hz, H11), 4.98 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, Troc CH₂), 4.09-3.86 (m, 8H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O, Troc CH₂ and H3), 3.75-3.66 (m, 10H, OCH₃ x 2, H11a, and H3), 2.72 (dd, 2H, J = 10.2, 19.6 Hz, H1), 2.82 (dd, 2H, J = 2.6, 19.6 Hz, H1), 2.22-2.19 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 0.63 (s, 18H, TBS CH₃ x 6), 0.00 (s x 2, 12H, TBS CH₃ x 4); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.7 (C2), 168.0 (C_{quat}), 153.7 (C_{quat}), 150.7 (C_{quat}), 149.4 (C_{quat}), 127.8 (C_{quat}), 124.6 (C_{quat}), 114.0 (C9), 110.6 (C6), 95.1 (Troc CCl₃), 87.4 (C11), 74.8 (Troc CH₂), 65.0 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 58.9 (C11a), 56.1 (OCH₃), 53.0 (C3), 40.3 (C1), 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 25.6 (TBS CH₃), 17.8 (TBS C_{quat}); MS (ES), m/z

(relative intensity) 1224 ($[M + 48]^{+}$, 100), 1210 ($[M + 34]^{+}$, 60), 1199 ($[M + Na]^{+}$, 35), 1192 ($[M + 16]^{+}$, 40), 1176 (M^{+} , 18).

5 *1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy]-1,10,11,11*a*-tetrahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]]* (13)

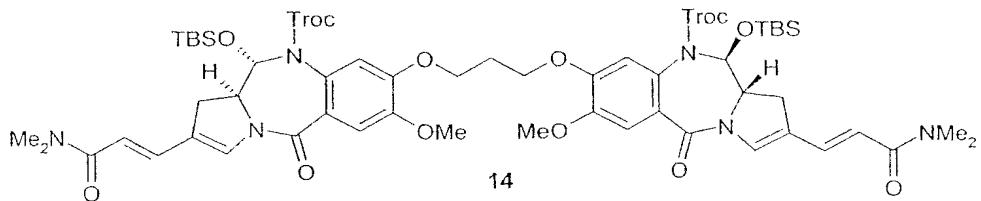


10 Anhydrous triflic anhydride (3.09 mL, 5.19 g, 18.4 mmol, 22 eq) taken from a freshly opened ampule was added rapidly in one portion to a vigorously stirred solution of ketone 12 (0.98 g, 0.84 mmol) and anhydrous pyridine (1.49 mL, 1.46 g, 18.4 mmol, 22 eq) in dry DCM (50 mL) at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere. The initial precipitate dissolved gradually and the solution eventually turned a dark red colour. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 4.5 h when TLC (80:20 v/v EtOAc/hexane) revealed the complete consumption of the starting material. The mixture was poured into cold saturated $NaHCO_3$ (60 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 x 80 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with saturated $CuSO_4$ (2 x 125 mL), brine (125 mL) and dried ($MgSO_4$). Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (80:20 v/v hexane/EtOAc) to afford triflate 13 as a light yellow glass (0.74 mg, 61%): $[\alpha]^{25}_D = +46.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.33$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.23 (s, 2H, H6), 7.19 (s, 2H, H3), 6.77 (s, 2H, H9), 5.94 (d, 2H, $J = 8.9$ Hz, H11), 5.23 (d, 2H, $J = 12.0$ Hz, Troc CH_2), 4.31-4.28 (m, 2H, $OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 4.18 (d, 2H, $J = 12.2$ Hz, Troc CH_2), 4.15-4.13 (m, 2H, $OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 3.95-3.91 (m, 8H, $OCH_3 \times 2$, H11a), 3.35 (dd, 2H, $J = 11.0$, 16.6 Hz, H1), 2.84 (d, 2H, $J = 16.6$ Hz, H1), 2.46-2.44 (m, 2H, $OCH_2CH_2CH_2O$), 0.89 (s, 18H, TBS $CH_3 \times 6$), 0.29 and 0.26 (s x 2, 12H, TBS $CH_3 \times 4$); ^{13}C NMR (100-6 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 164.9 (C_{quat}), 153.6 (C_{quat}), 151.0 (C_{quat}), 149.5 (C_{quat}), 136.0 (C_{quat}), 127.7 (C_{quat}), 123.9

(C_{quat}), 121.0 (C3), 114.0 (C9), 110.9 (C6), 95.1 (Troc CCl₃), 86.3 (C11), 74.8 (Troc CH₂), 65.0 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 60.6 (C11a), 56.2 (OCH₃), 34.4 (C1), 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 25.6 (TBS CH₃), 17.8 (TBS C_{quat}); IR (CHCl₃) 3020, 2957, 2860, 1725, 1674, 1651, 1604, 1516, 1466, 1454, 1431, 1409, 1329, 1312, 1274, 1216, 1138, 1113, 1083, 1042, 1006, 900, 840, 757, 668, 646, 610 cm⁻¹; MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 1461 ([M + 21]⁺, 100), 1440 (M⁺, 55).

Example 2 - 1,1'-{[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-[N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl]vinyl]-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]} (ZC-204)

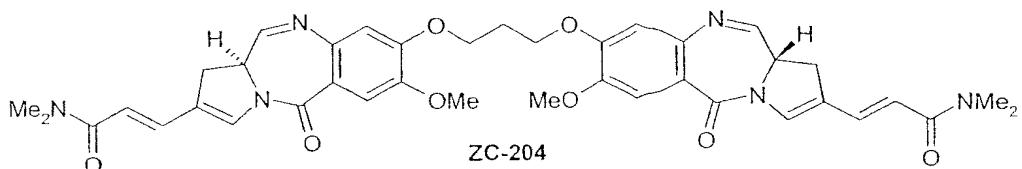
1,1'-{[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11*S*,11*a**S*)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-[N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl]vinyl]-1,10,11,11*a*-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]} (14)



A mixture of triflate 13 (732 mg, 1.22 mmol), *N,N*-dimethylacrylamide (0.14 mL, 134 mg, 1.35 mmol, 5.0 eq), DABCO (152 mg, 1.35 mmol, 5.0 eq), (CH₃CN)₂PdCl₂ (14 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.2 eq) and MeOH (15 mL) was stirred at 55 – 65 °C for 16 h. The reaction was worked-up by pouring the mixture into CHCl₃ (20 mL) and aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 20 mL) and the CHCl₃ extracts were combined, washed with H₂O (50 mL), brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent gave the crude product as a dark brown glass. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (99.9:0.1 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH then gradient to 99.2:0.8 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) to give the coupled product 14 as a light yellow glass (80 mg, 22%): [α]²⁶_D = +87.2 ° (c = 0.11, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, 2H, *J* = 15.0 Hz, H12), 7.32 (s, 2H, H3), 7.28 (s, 2H, H6), 6.79 (s, 2H, H9), 6.10 (d, 2H, *J* = 15.0 Hz, H13), 5.88 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H11),

5.23 (d, 2H, $J = 12.0$ Hz, **Troc CH₂**), 4.33-4.28 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 4.18 (d, 1H, $J = 12.2$ Hz, **Troc CH₂**), 4.18-4.14 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 3.98-3.95 (m, 8H, **H11a** and OCH₃ x 2), 3.17-3.06 (m, 8H, **H1** and **NCH₃** x 2), 2.65 (d, 1H, $J = 16.2$ Hz, **H1**), 2.47-2.44 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 0.92 (s, 18H, **TBS CH₃** x 6), 0.29 and 0.27 (s x 2, 12H, **TBS CH₃** x 4); ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5 (CONMe₂), 132.5 (C12), 132.6 (C3), 116.8 (C13), 114.0 (C9), 110.8 (C6), 95.2 (Troc CCl₃), 86.9 (C11), 74.8 (Troc CH₂), 65.0 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 61.9 (C11a), 56.2 (OCH₃), 33.5 (C1), 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 25.6 (TBS CH₃), 17.9 (TBS C_{quat}); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 1337 ([M - H]⁺, 100), 1327 (27), 1316 (34).

1,1'-{[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-[(*N,N*-dimethylaminocarbonyl)vinyl]-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]} (ZC-204)

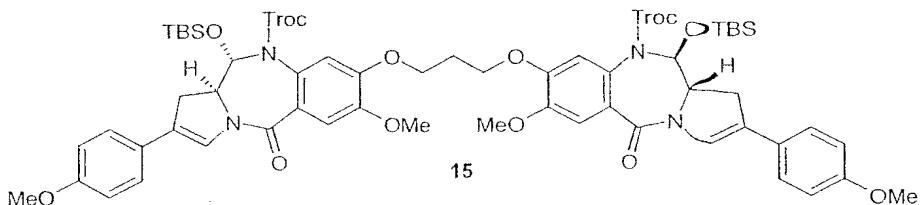


10% Cd/Pd couple (120 mg, 0.99 mmol, 16.5 ∞ g) was added to a rapidly stirring mixture of **14** (79 mg, 0.06 mmol), THF (1.5 mL) and 1 N NH₄OAc (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 3.5 h. The solids were filtered and rinsed with H₂O and CHCl₃. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 \times 20 mL), and the organic extracts were combined, washed with brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent left a yellow solid which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.9:0.1 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH then gradient to 95:5 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) to afford **ZC-204** as a yellow glass (13.4 mg, 31%): $[\alpha]^{25}_D = +235.7^\circ$ (*c* = 0.07, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, 2H, $J = 3.9$ Hz, **H11**), 7.54 (d, 2H, $J = 15.1$ Hz, **H12**), 7.51 (s, 2H, **H3**), 7.34 (s, 2H, **H6**), 6.88 (s, 2H, **H9**), 6.18 (d, 2H, $J = 15.0$ Hz, **H13**), 4.43-4.27 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O and **H11a**), 3.95 (s, 6H, OCH₃ x 2), 3.41-3.34 (m, 2H, **H1**), 3.23-3.04 (m, 14H, **H1** and **NCH₃** x 4), 2.47-2.44 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O); ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4 (CONMe₂), 162.1 (C11),

161.7 (C_{quat}), 151.5 (C_{quat}), 148.2 (C_{quat}), 140.4 (C_{quat}), 135.2 (C12),
 132.2 (C3), 121.8 (C_{quat}), 118.6 (C_{quat}), 117.0 (C13), 112.0 (C9),
 111.3 (C6), 65.4 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 56.2 (OCH₃), 54.2 (C11a), 37.4 and
 35.9 (NCH₃), 33.8 (C1) 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative
 5 intensity) 741 ([M + H₂O]⁺, 25), 723 (M⁺, 62).

Example 3 - 1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-(p-methoxybenzene)-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]] (ZC-207)

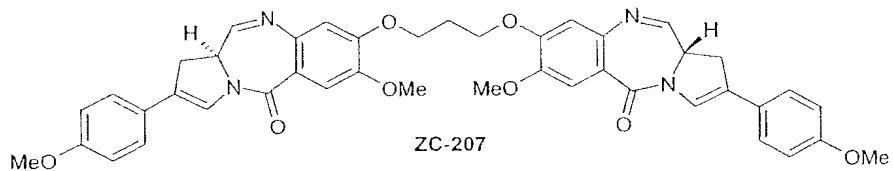
1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11S,11aS)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-(p-methoxybenzene)-1,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (15)



!5 A solution of TEA (0.20 mL, 148 mg, 1.46 mmol, 6.0 eq) in H₂O (1.5 mL) and EtOH (10 mL) was added to a solution of triflate **13** (350 mg, 0.24 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at room temperature. To this mixture 4-methoxybenzeneboronic acid (96 mg, 0.63 mmol, 2.6 eq) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (11 mg, 9 μ mol, 0.04 eq) were added. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 15 min when TLC (80:20 v/v EtOAc/hexane) revealed the complete consumption of the starting material. Excess solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (25 mL), washed with H₂O (15 mL), brine (15 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (80:20 v/v hexane/EtOAc then gradient to 50:50 v/v hexane/EtOAc) to afford **15** as a yellow glass (286 mg, 87%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (s, 2H, H3), 7.32-7.28 (m, 6H, H6 and H13), 6.92 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H14), 6.81 (s, 2H, H9), 5.93 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H11), 5.24 (d, 2H, *J* = 12.0 Hz, Troc CH₂), 4.34-4.29 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 4.20-4.11 (m, 4H, Troc CH₂ and OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 4.00-3.96 (m, 8H, H11a and OCH₃ x

2), 3.84 (s, 6H, OCH_3 x 2), 3.36 (dd, 2H, J = 10.8, 16.6 Hz, H1), 2.85 (d, 2H, J = 16.5 Hz, H1), 2.48-2.45 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 0.93 (s, 18H, **TBS** CH_3 x 6), 0.30 and 0.27 (s x 2, 12H, **TBS** CH_3 x 4); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.5 (C_{quat}), 161.3 (C_{quat}), 159.2 (C_{quat}), 151.1 (C_{quat}), 148.1 (C_{quat}), 140.3 (C_{quat}), 126.2 (C13), 126.0 (C_{quat}), 123.2 (C_{quat}), 121.9 (C3), 119.3 (C_{quat}), 114.3 (C6), 111.9 (C14), 111.2 (C9), 95.2 (**Troc** CCl_3), 87.3 (C11), 74.8 (**Troc** CH_2), 65.0 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 61.5 (C11a), 56.1 and 55.3 (OCH_3), 35.3 (C1), 28.8 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 25.7 (**TBS** CH_3), 17.9 (**TBS** C_{quat}); MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 1357 (M^+ , 63), 1114 (48), 955 (59), 919 (78).

1,1'-[[*(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy*]bis[*(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-(*p*-methoxybenzene)-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one*]] (**ZC-207**)

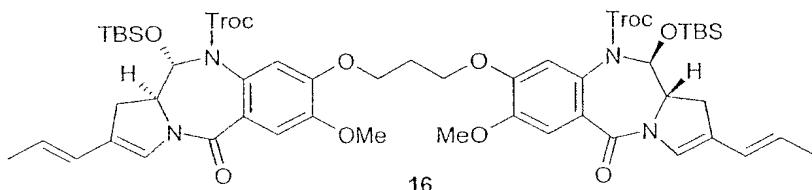


10% Cd/Pd couple (461 mg, 3.73 mmol, 20 eq) was added to a rapidly stirring mixture of **15** (253 mg, 0.19 mmol), THF (5 mL) and 1 N NH_4OAc (5 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 1.5 h when TLC showed the complete consumption of the starting material. The solids were filtered and rinsed with H_2O and DCM. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 x 30 mL) and the organic extracts were combined, washed with brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO_4). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.9:0.1 v/v $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ then gradient to 95:5 v/v $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$) to afford **ZC-207** as a yellow glass (132 mg, 96%): $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ = +880.0 ° (c = 0.22, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, 2H, J = 3.9 Hz, H11), 7.44 (s, 2H, H6), 7.30 (s, 2H, H3), 7.24 (d, 4H, J = 8.7 Hz, H13), 6.81 (d, 4H, J = 8.7 Hz, H14), 6.79 (s, 2H, H9), 4.30-4.18 (m, 6H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ and H11a), 3.86 (s, 6H, OCH_3 x 2), 3.74 (s, 6H, OCH_3 x 2), 3.48 (dd, 2H, J = 11.8, 16.2 Hz, H1), 2.85 (d, 2H, J = 16.2 Hz, H1), 2.38-2.32 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$); ^{13}C NMR (62.9 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

162.5 (C11), 161.3 (C_{quat}), 159.2 (C_{quat}), 151.1 (C_{quat}), 148.1 (C_{quat}),
 140.3 (C_{quat}), 126.2 (C13), 126.0 (C_{quat}), 123.2 (C_{quat}), 121.9 (C3),
 114.3 (C14), 111.9 (C9), 111.2 (C6), 65.4 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 56.2 and
 55.3 (OCH₃), 53.8 (C11a), 35.6 (C1), 28.9 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O); MS (ES),
 5 m/z (relative intensity) 741 (M⁺, 43), 660 (71).

Example 4 - 1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-(1-propenyl)-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]] (ZC-211)

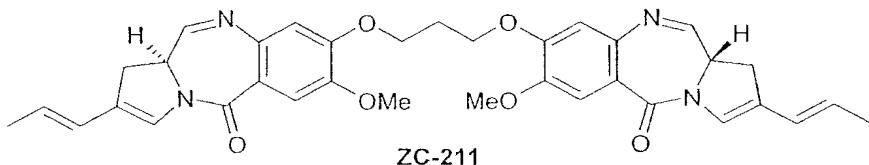
1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11S,11aS)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-(1-propenyl)-1,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (16)



15 A solution of TEA (0.11 mL, 81 mg, 0.80 mmol, 6.0 eq) in H₂O (3 mL) and EtOH (10 mL) was added to a solution of triflate 13 (192 mg, 0.13 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) at room temperature. To this mixture trans-propenylboronic acid (30 mg, 0.35 mmol, 2.6 eq) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (6 mg, 5 μ mol, 0.04 eq) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 76 °C for 2 h when TLC (50:50 v/v EtOAc/hexane) revealed the complete consumption of the starting material. Excess solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (15 mL), washed with H₂O (10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (80:20 v/v hexane/ EtOAc) to afford 16 as a light yellow glass (40 mg, 25%): $[\alpha]^{20}$ = +75.0 ° (c = 0.20, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (s, 2H, H6), 6.90 (s, 2H, H3), 6.78 (s, 2H, H9), 6.26 (d, 2H, J = 14.8 Hz, H12), 5.85 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, H11), 5.54 (dq, J = 6.8, 15.4 Hz, 2H, H13), 5.23 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, Troc CH₂), 4.32-4.26 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 4.18-4.11 (m, 4H, Troc CH₂ and OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 3.94 (s, 6H, OCH₃ x 2), 3.89-3.83 (m, 2H, H11a), 3.07 (dd, 2H, J = 10.6, 15.9 Hz, H1), 2.60

(d, 2H, $J = 16.3$ Hz, **H1**), 2.46-2.43 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.85 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, **H14**), 0.90 (s, 18H, TBS CH_3 x 6), 0.28 and 0.25 (s x 2, 12H, TBS CH_3 x 4); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.6 (C_{quat}), 153.6 (C_{quat}), 150.4 (C_{quat}), 149.2 (C_{quat}), 127.7 (C_{quat}), 126.4 (C13), 5 125.6 (C_{quat}), 124.7 (C12 and C3), 123.5 (C_{quat}), 114.0 (C9), 110.7 (C6), 95.2 (Troc CCl_3), 87.2 (C11), 74.7 (Troc CH_2), 65.0 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 61.4 (C11a), 56.1 (OCH₃), 33.9 (C1), 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 25.6 (TBS CH_3), 18.4 (C14), 17.9 (TBS C_{quat}); MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 1246 ([M + 22]⁺, 100), 1226 ([M + 2]⁺, 10), 88).

1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-(1-propenyl)-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]] (ZC-211)

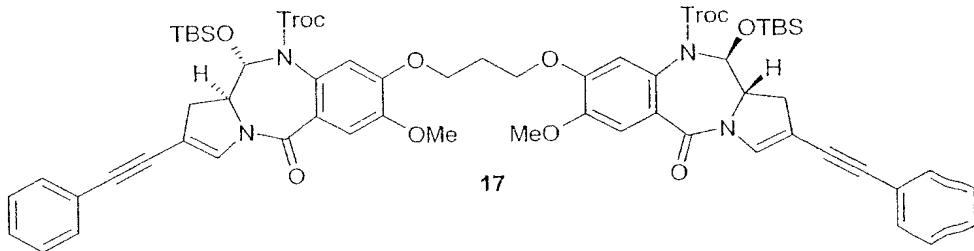


15 10% Cd/Pd couple (81 mg, 0.65 mmol, 20 eq) was added to a rapidly stirring mixture of **16** (40 mg, 0.03 mmol), THF (1 mL) and 1 N NH₄OAc (1 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 1 h when TLC showed the complete consumption of the starting material. The solids were filtered and rinsed with H₂O and CHCl₃. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 5 mL) and the organic extracts were combined, washed with H₂O (10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.8:0.2 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH then gradient to 97:3 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) to afford **ZC-211** as a yellow glass (14.7 mg, 74%): $[\alpha]^{20}_D = +1102.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.15$, CHCl₃); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, 2H, $J = 3.8$ Hz, **H11**), 7.42 (s, 2H, **H6**), 6.84 (s, 2H, **H3**), 6.77 (s, 2H, **H9**), 6.19 (d, 2H, $J = 15.5$ Hz, **H12**), 5.52 (dq, $J = 6.8, 15.4$ Hz, 2H, **H13**), 4.27-4.16 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O and **H11a**), 3.84 (s, 6H, OCH₃ x 2), 3.22 (dd, 2H, $J = 11.5, 16.1$ Hz, **H1**), 3.03 (dd, 2H, $J = 4.8, 16.2$ Hz, **H1**), 2.38-2.32 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 1.77 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, **H14**); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.6 (C11), 161.2 (C_{quat}), 151.1 (C_{quat}), 148.1

(C_{quat}), 140.3 (C_{quat}), 127.7 (C_{quat}), 126.9 (C13), 124.4 (C12 and C3), 123.9 (C_{quat}), 119.3 (C_{quat}), 111.9 (C6), 111.2 (C9), 65.4 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 56.2 (OCH₃), 53.8 (C11a), 34.2 (C1), 28.8 (OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 18.5 (C14); MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 609 (M⁺, 100).

Example 5 - 1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-ethynylphenyl-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]] (ZC-209)

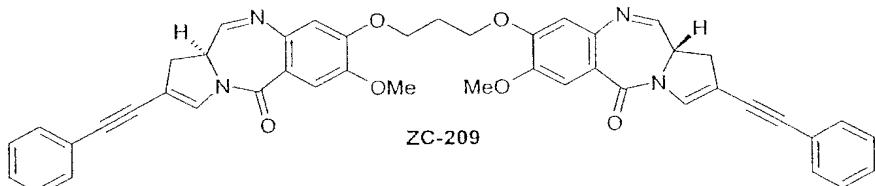
1,1'-[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11S,11aS)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-7-methoxy-2-ethynylphenyl-1,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one]] (17)



A catalytic amount of Pd(PPh₃)₄ was added to a stirred mixture of triflate 13 (193 mg, 0.13 mmol), LiCl (34 mg, 0.80 mmol, 6.0 eq) and tributyl(phenylethynyl)tin (0.14 mL, 157 mg, 0.40 mmol, 3.0 eq) in dry THF (5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 2.5 h when TLC showed the complete consumption of the starting material. After cooling to room temperature, excess solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in DCM (20 mL), followed by washin with 10 % NH₄OH (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 x 20 mL), and the organic extracts were combined, washed with brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (80:20 v/v hexane/EtOAc) to afford 17 as a yellow glass (162 mg, 90%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.37 (m, 4H, H15), 7.26-7.19 (m, 10H, H3, H6, H16 and H17), 6.70 (s, 2H, H9), 5.85 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, H11), 5.15 (d, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, Tric CH₂), 4.24-4.19 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂O), 4.12-4.02 (m,

4H, **Troc CH₂** and **OCH₂CH₂CH₂O**), 3.86-3.79 (m, 8H, **OCH₃ x 2** and **H11a**), 3.15 (dd, 2H, *J* = 10.8, 16.5 Hz, **H1**), 2.63 (d, 2H, *J* = 16.5 Hz, **H1**), 2.37-2.35 (m, 2H, **OCH₂CH₂CH₂O**), 0.82 (s, 18H, **TBS CH₃ x 6**), 0.22 and 0.18 (s x 2, 12H, **TBS CH₃ x 4**); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.8 (**C_{quat}**), 153.6 (**C_{quat}**), 150.8 (**C_{quat}**), 149.3 (**C_{quat}**), 133.3 (**C3**), 131.4 (**C15**), 128.4 (**C16** and **C17**), 127.8 (**C_{quat}**), 125.1 (**C_{quat}**), 123.0 (**C_{quat}**), 114.0 (**C6**), 110.0 (**C9**), 104.8 (**C_{quat}**), 95.2 (**Troc CCl₃**), 93.7 (**C_{alkyne}**), 86.9 (**C11**), 83.6 (**C_{alkyne}**), 74.8 (**Troc CH₂**), 66.0 (**OCH₂CH₂CH₂O**), 61.4 (**C11a**), 56.2 (**OCH₃**), 37.8 (**C1**), 28.8 (**OCH₂CH₂CH₂O**), 25.6 (**TBS CH₃**), 17.8 (**TBS C_{quat}**); MS (ES), *m/z* (relative intensity) 1344 (M⁺, 8), 625 (100).

1,1'-[[*[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis[(11aS)-7-methoxy-2-ethynylphenyl-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-5-one]]* (ZC-209)

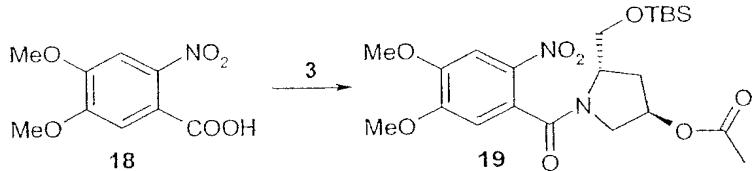


10% Cd/Pd couple (314 mg, 2.55 mmol, 20 eq) was added to a rapidly stirring mixture of **17** (162 mg, 0.13 mmol), THF (4 mL) and 1 N NH₄OAc (4 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 45 min when TLC showed the complete consumption of the starting material. The solids were filtered and rinsed with H₂O and CHCl₃. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 25 mL) and the organic extracts were combined, washed with H₂O (50 mL), brine (50 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of solvent afforded the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (99.8:0.2 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH then gradient to 97.5:2.5 v/v CHCl₃/MeOH) to afford ZC-209 as a yellow glass (33 mg, 38%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.9 Hz, **H11**), 7.42 (s, 2H, **H6**), 7.39-7.37 (m, 4H, **H15**), 7.26-7.19 (m, 8H, **H3**, **H16** and **H17**), 6.78 (s, 2H, **H9**), 4.30-4.19 (m, 6H, **OCH₂CH₂CH₂O** and **H11a**), 3.86 (s, 6H, **OCH₃ x 2**), 3.36

(dd, 2H, $J = 11.7, 16.4$ Hz, H1), 3.18 (dd, 2H, $J = 5.4, 16.4$ Hz, H1), 2.37-2.34 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$); ^{13}C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.0 (C11), 161.3 (C_{quat}), 151.4 (C_{quat}), 148.2 (C_{quat}), 140.3 (C_{quat}), 132.8 (C3), 131.4 (C15), 128.4 (C16 and C17), 122.9 (C_{quat}), 118.7 (C_{quat}), 112.0 (C6), 111.2 (C9), 105.1 (C_{quat}), 94.3 (C_{alkyne}), 83.3 (C_{alkyne}), 65.5 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 56.2 (OCH_3), 53.8 (C11a), 37.9 (C1), 28.8 ($\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$); MS (ES), m/z (relative intensity) 729 (M^+ , 100).

5 Example 6 - Formation of key monomer intermediate ((11S,11aS)-7,8-Dimethoxy-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy]-1,2,3,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (27))

10 15 (2S) (4R)-N-(4,5-Dimethoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl)-2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine (19)

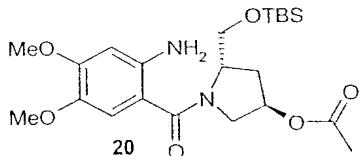


20 A stirred solution of 6-nitroveratric acid (18) (1.49 g, 6.58 mmol; 1.2 Equiv.) in dry DMF (2 mL) and DCM (80 mL) was treated with N-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-N-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride (1.26 g, 6.58 mmol, 1.2 Equiv.) and cooled to 0°C. 1-Hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (1.03 g, 6.58 mmol, 1.2 Equiv.) was added in portions and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring for 1 h, a solution of 3 (1.5 g, 5.48 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in DCM (80 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture stirred for a further 15 h. This was followed by heating at 55°C for a further 3 h. The reaction mixture was washed with NH_4Cl (60 mL), NaHCO_3 (60 mL), brine (60 mL), dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash chromatography (EtOAc/petroleum ether 4:6) afforded the product 19 as pale crystals (2.11g, 79.9%): m.p. 134°C; $[\alpha]_D^{19} = -91.9^\circ$ ($c = 0.408$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.12 (s, 6 H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.93 (s, 9 H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.04 (s, 3

H, C=OCH₃), 2.20 – 2.28 (m, 1 H, H1a), 2.39 – 2.45 (m, 1 H, H1b), 3.22 (d, 1 H, J = 11.74 Hz, H3a), 3.47 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.89, 4.70 Hz, H3b), 3.75 (d, 1 H, J = 8.39 Hz, H11), 3.94 (s, 3 H, CH₃O7), 3.98 (s, 3 H, CH₃O8), 4.21 (d, 1 H, J = 9.76 Hz, H11), 4.56 (m, 1 H, H11a), 5.19 (m, 1 H, H2b), 6.73 (s, 1 H, H6), 7.68 (s, 1 H, H9); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.0 (C=O), 166.3 (C5), 154.0 (C7), 149.1 (C8), 137.6 (C5-6), 127.8 (C9-10), 109.1 (C6), 107.3 (C9), 72.9 (C2), 62.6 (C11), 57.4 (C11a), 56.5, 56.6 (CH₃O7 and CH₃O8), 52.0 (C3), 33.0 (C1), 25.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 21.2 (C=OCH₃), 18.1 (Cquat), – 5.5 (SiCH₃)₂; IR (film) 2953, 2856, 1740 (C=O), 1648 (C=O), 1579, 1525, 1463, 1427, 1338, 1278, 1243, 1225, 1115, 1070, 1028, 1004, 837, 780 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 483 ([M + H]⁺, 100); Elem. Anal. calculated for C₂₂H₃₄N₂O₈Si: C, 54.75; H, 7.10; N, 5.80. Found: C, 54.50; H, 7.08; N, 5.79.

15

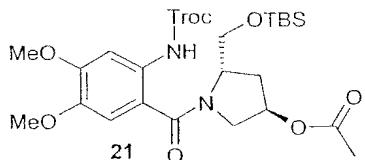
(2S,4R)-N-(2-Amino-4,5-dimethoxybenzoyl)-2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxymethyl)-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine (20)



A suspension of 19 (61.75 g, 127.9 mmol; 1 Equiv.) and 10% w/w Pd/C (6.17 g) in ethanol (400 mL) was agitated under a H₂ atmosphere (45 psi) using Parr apparatus over a period of 3 h. The suspension was filtered through celite and the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo* to afford 20 as a pale yellow oil (57.5 g, 99%): [α]_D¹⁹ = -105.1° (c = 0.490, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.03 (s, 6 H, Si(CH₃)₂), 0.88 (s, 9 H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.98 (s, 3 H, C=OCH₃), 2.09 – 2.15 (m, 1 H, H1a), 2.32–2.39 (m, 1 H, H1b), 3.57–3.64 (m, 2 H, H3a and H11), 3.73–3.77 (m, 4 H, H3b and CH₃O8), 3.82 (s, 3 H, CH₃O7), 4.00–4.11 (m (br), 1 H, H11), 4.40–4.60 (m, 1 H, H11a), 5.21–5.27 (m, 1 H, H2b), 6.21 (s, 1 H, H9), 6.69 (s, 1 H, H6); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.6 (C=O), 170.0 (C5), 151.9 (C7), 141.7 (C9-10), 140.9 (C8), 112.2 (C6), 110.9 (C5-6), 100.6 (C9), 73.5 (C2), 62.6 (C11), 57.0 (C11a), 55.8, (CH₃O7), 56.6 (CH₃O8), 56.3 (C3), 32.9 (C1), 25.8 (C(CH₃)₃), 21.1 (C=OCH₃), 18.1 (Cquat), -5.5 (SiCH₃)₂; IR (film)

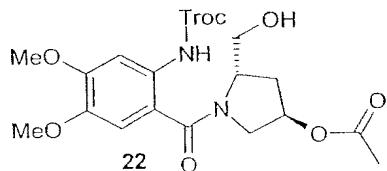
3455, 3355 (NH₂), 2931, 2857, 1740 (C=O), 1628 (C=O), 1594, 1516, 1401, 1238, 1165, 1120, 1006, 837, 778, 668 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 453 ([M + H]⁺, 100).

5 (2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4,5-dimethoxy-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonylamino)-benzoyl)-2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl)-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine (21)



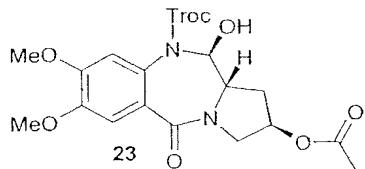
2,2,2-Trichloroethyl chloroformate (1.61 mL, 11.68 mmol, 2.2 Equiv.) was added to a stirred solution of 20 (2.40 g, 5.31 mmol; 1.0 Equiv.) and pyridine (1.72 mL, 21.24 mmol, 4.0 Equiv.) in dry DCM (70 mL) at -20°C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was washed with NH₄Cl (2 x 60 mL), CuSO₄ (60 mL), water (60 mL), brine (60 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 21 as a colourless oil (3.32 g, 99 %): [α]_D²⁰ = -43.4° (c = 0.980, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.28 (s, 6 H, Si(CH₃)₂), 0.87 (s, 9 H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.96 (s, 3 H, C=OCH₃), 2.10 – 2.16 (m, 1 H, H1a), 2.35 – 2.41 (m, 1 H, H1b), 3.55 – 3.65 (br m, 1 H, H3a), 3.68 – 3.74 (m, 2 H, H11 and H3b), 3.78 (s, 3 H, CH₃O₇), 3.91 (s, 3 H, CH₃O₈), 4.06 – 4.10 (m, 2 H, Cl₃CCH₂ rotamers and H11), 4.55 – 4.65 (m, 1 H, H11a), 4.74 – 4.82 (m, 1 H, Cl₃CCH₂, rotamers), 5.20 – 5.25 (m, 1 H, H2b), 6.75 (s, 1 H, H6), 7.82 (br s, 1 H, H9), 9.38 (br s, 1 H, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.5 (C=O), 169.2 (C5), 153.1, 151.4 (OC=ONH, rotamers), 151.9 (C8), 144.1 (C7), 132.2 (C5-6), 114.8 (C9-10), 111.1 (C6), 104.3 (C9), 95.3, 93.9 (Cl₃C, rotamers), 77.3, 76.3 (Cl₃CCH₂, rotamers), 73.4 (C2), 62.3 (C11), 57.3 (C11a), 57.2 (C3), 56.1, 56.2 (CH₃O₇ and CH₃O₈), 32.5 (C1), 25.8 (C(CH₃)₃), 21.1 (C=OCH₃), 18.1 (Cquat), -5.5 (SiCH₃)₂; IR (film) 3318, 2954, 2858, 1774, 1743 (C=O and OC=ON), 1601 (NC=O), 1525, 1464, 1422, 1398, 1230, 1200, 1125, 1004, 836, 777, 720 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 629 ([M + H]⁺, 100).

(2*S*,4*R*)-*N*-(4,5-dimethoxy-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonylamino)-benzoyl)-2-hydroxymethyl-4-oxyacetylpyrrolidine (22)



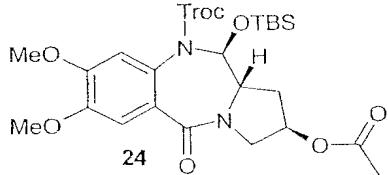
A mixture of acetic acid (81 mL) and water (18 mL) was added to a 5 stirred solution of 21 (5.10 g, 8.12 mmol; 1.0 Equiv.) in THF (45 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for a period of 48 h. The THF was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting mixture was neutralised to pH 7 with solid NaHCO₃ (Caution! vigorous effervescence). The resulting aqueous layer was extracted 10 with DCM (5 x 150 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The oily residue was subjected to flash chromatography (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 6:4) to give 22 as a foam (4.16 g, 99%): [α]_D²⁵ = -65.0° (c = 0.500, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 2.01 (s, 3 H, C=OCH₃), 2.05 – 2.13 (m, 1 H, H1b), 2.27 (dd, 1 H, J = 14.20, 7.62 Hz, H1a), 3.62 (d, 1 H, J = 12.36 Hz, H3a), 3.65 – 3.74 15 (m, 1 H, H11), 3.76 (dd, 1 H, J = 12.57, 3.80 Hz, H3b), 3.85 (s, 3 H, CH₃O7), 3.93 (s, 3 H, CH₃O8), 3.98 – 4.08 (m, 1 H, H11), 4.55 – 4.65 (m, 1 H, H11a), 4.79 (d, 1 H, J = 12.09 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 4.84 (d, 1 H, J = 12.04 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 5.18 – 5.25 (m, 1 H, H2b), 6.80 (s, 1 H, H6), 7.73 (br s, 1 H, H9), 9.03 (br s, 1 H, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.6 (C=O), 170.4 (C5), 152.1 (OC=ONH), 151.5 (C8), 144.6 (C7), 131.2 (C5-6), 115.5 (C9-10), 110.8 (C6), 104.8 (C9), 95.3 (Cl₃C), 74.4 (Cl₃CCH₂), 72.5 (C2), 64.5 (C11), 58.8 (C11a), 56.6 (C3), 56.5 (CH₃O7), 56.1 (CH₃O8), 33.7 (C1), 21.1 (C=OCH₃); IR (film) 3358 (br NH and OH), 3015, 2941, 1740 (C=O and OC=ON), 1602 (NC=O), 1525, 1463, 1433, 1398, 1231, 1174, 1125, 1037, 969, 817, 756 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 363 ([M - Cl₃CCH₂O]⁺, 100), 513 ([M + H]⁺, 95).

(11*S*,11*a**S*,2*R*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-11-hydroxy-2-oxyacetyl-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (23)



5 Diodobenzene diacetate (83.7 g, 259.8 mmol, 1.78 Equiv.) and 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine nitroxyl (TEMPO) (4.50 g, 28.8 mmol, 0.2 Equiv.) were added to a stirred solution of **22** (74.7 g, 145.4 mmol; 1.0 Equiv.) in dry DCM (1.5 L). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h and diluted with DCM (500 mL).
10 The organic phase was washed with a sat^d sodium bisulphite (700 mL) and the aqueous layer was back-extracted with DCM (3 x 200 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash chromatography (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 7:3) afforded **23** as a white glass (57.65 g, 77 %): $[\alpha]_D^{18} = +99.4^\circ$ ($c = 0.483, \text{CHCl}_3$); ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.04 (s, 3 H, C=OCH_3), 2.34 – 2.46 (m, 2 H, **H1b** and **H1a**), 3.69 – 3.77 (m, 2 H, **H3b** and **11a**), 3.92 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}8$), 3.95 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}7$), 4.05 (dd, 1 H, $J = 13.13, 2.35$ Hz, **H3a**), 4.23 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.02$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.25 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.02$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.38 (p, 1 H, $J = 4.10$ Hz, **H2b**), 5.70 (dd, 1 H, $J = 9.66, 3.79$ Hz, **H11**), 6.81 (s, 1 H, **H9**), 7.27 (s, 1 H, **H6**); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 170.3 (C=O), 167.4 (**C5**), 154.4 (OC=ONH), 151.1 (**C8**), 148.8 (**C7**), 127.5 (**C9-10**), 124.7 (**C5-6**), 112.7 (**C9**), 110.7 (**C6**), 95.0 (Cl_3C), 87.6 (**C11**), 75.0 (Cl_3CCH_2), 71.4 (**C2**), 58.3 (**C11a**), 56.19, 56.13 ($\text{CH}_3\text{O}8$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{O}7$), 51.1 (**C3**), 35.9 (**C1**), 21.0 (C=OCH_3); IR (film) 3421 (br OH), 3008, 2946, 1719 (C=O), 1623 (OC=ON), 1603 (NC=O), 1515, 1429, 1374, 1304, 1238, 1212, 1057, 870, 819, 758, 711, 644 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 511 ($[\text{M} - \text{H}]^{+}$, 100), 512.5 ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^{+}$, 99).

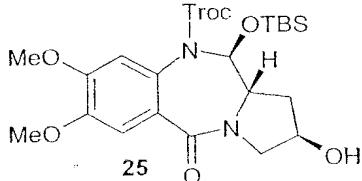
(11*S*,11*aS*,2*R*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-2-oxyacetyl-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (24)



5

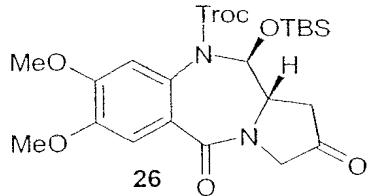
TBDMSOTf (0.56 mL, 2.44 mmol, 1.5 Equiv.) was added to a stirred solution of **23** (834 mg, 1.63 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) and 2,6-lutidine (0.38 mL, 3.26 mmol, 2.0 Equiv.) in dry DCM (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and diluted with DCM (20 mL). The mixture was washed with sat^d CuSO₄ (2 x 20 mL), sat^d NaHCO₃ (30 mL), brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford **6** as white glass (1.01 g, 99 %): [α]_D¹⁸ = +52.7° (c = 0.237, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.23 (s, 6 H, Si(CH₃)₂), 0.87 (s, 9 H, C(CH₃)₃), 2.03 (s, 3 H, C=OCH₃), 2.18 – 2.25 (m, 1 H, H1b), 2.30 – 2.40 (m, 1 H, H1a), 3.66 – 3.72 (m, 2 H, H3b and 11a), 3.89 (s, 3 H, CH₃O8), 3.95 (s, 3 H, CH₃O7), 4.13 (d, 1 H, J = 13.40 Hz, H3a), 4.18 (d, 1 H, J = 12.04 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 5.23 (d, 1 H, J = 12.03 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 5.37 (p, 1 H, J = 2.62 Hz, H2b), 5.77 (d, 1 H, J = 8.95 Hz, H11), 6.74 (s, 1 H, H9), 7.28 (s, 1 H, H6); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.3 (C=O), 167.9 (C5), 153.5 (OC=ONH), 151.0 (C8), 148.9 (C7), 128.0 (C9-10), 125.4 (C5-6), 112.9 (C9), 110.6 (C6), 95.2 (Cl₃C), 88.2 (C11), 74.7 (Cl₃CCH₂), 71.7 (C2), 60.5 (C11a), 56.1 (CH₃O7), 56.9 (CH₃O8), 51.2 (C3), 36.2 (C1), 25.5 (C(CH₃)₃) 21.0 (C=OCH₃), 17.8 (Cquat), -4.3 and -5.3 (Si(CH₃)₂); IR (film) 3023, 2956, 1738 (C=O), 1718 (OC=ON), 1644 (NC=O), 1605, 1518, 1466, 1428, 1411, 1376, 1301, 1245, 1214, 1116, 1075, 1041, 1023, 842, 784, 756, 730, 712 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 627 ([M + H]⁺, 100).

(11*S*,11*aS*,2*R*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-2-hydroxy-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (25)



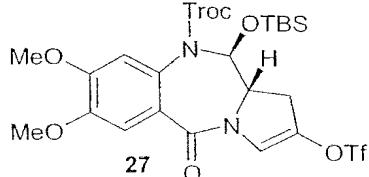
5 A solution of K_2CO_3 (732 mg, 5.30 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in water (15 mL) was added to a stirred solution of **24** (3.32 g, 5.30 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in MeOH (15 mL) and THF (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then excess solvent was removed by rotary evaporation at reduced pressure. The remaining aqueous residue was neutralised to pH 7 with 1N HCl and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (50 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting oil was subjected to flash chromatography (EtOAc) to afford **25** as a white glass (2.84 g, 92%): $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +58.3^\circ$ ($c = 0.587$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 500 MHz) δ 0.22 (s, 6 H, $Si(CH_3)_2$), 0.87 (s, 9 H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 2.06 – 2.11 (m, 1 H, **H1b**), 2.28 – 2.33 (m, 1 H, **H1a**), 3.60 (dd, 1 H, $J = 4.31$, 12.67 Hz, **H3b**), 3.71 (q, 1 H, $J = 7.42$, 15.67 Hz, **H11a**), 3.88 (s, 6 H, CH_3O_8 and CH_3O_7), 4.01 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.93$ Hz, **H3a**), 4.17 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.03$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 4.58 (br s, 1 H, **H2b**), 5.23 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.03$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.54 (d, 1 H, $J = 9.00$ Hz, **H11**), 6.73 (s, 1 H, **H9**), 7.21 (s, 1 H, **H6**); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 125 MHz) δ 168.4 (**C5**), 153.6 ($OC=ONH$), 151.9 (**C8**), 148.8 (**C7**), 128.0 (**C9-10**), 125.5 (**C5-6**), 112.8 (**C9**), 110.5 (**C6**), 95.2 (Cl_3C), 88.2 (**C11**), 74.7 (Cl_3CCH_2), 69.5 (**C2**), 60.8 (**C11a**), 56.0, 55.9 (CH_3O_8 and CH_3O_7), 54.0 (**C3**), 38.8 (**C1**), 25.6 ($C(CH_3)_3$), 17.8 (**Cquat**), -4.2 and -5.2 ($Si(CH_3)_2$); IR (film) 3400 (br OH), 2932, 1731 ($OC=ON$), 1629 ($NC=O$), 1604, 1515, 1456, 1430, 1407, 1302, 1273, 1214, 1117, 1075, 987, 837, 754, 712, 638 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 585 ($[M + H]^+$, 100).

(11*S*,11*aS*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-2-oxo-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxyethyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-hexahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (26)



5 Diodobenzene diacetate (2.44 g, 7.58 mmol, 1.78 Equiv.) and 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine nitroxyl (TEMPO) (133 mg, 0.85 mmol, 0.2 Equiv.) were added to a stirred solution of 25 (2.49 g, 4.26 mmol; 1.0 Equiv.) in dry DCM (40 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h and the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (50 mL). The organic phase was washed with sat^d sodium bisulphite (2 x 25 mL), brine (40 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash chromatography (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 6:4) afforded 26 as a white glass. (2.26 g, 91 %): $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +95.0^\circ$ (*c* = 0.795, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 0.22, 0.23 (two s, 6 H, Si(CH₃)₂), 0.86 (s, 9 H, C(CH₃)₃), 2.56 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 3.12, 19.60, H1b), 2.96 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 10.29, 18.9, H1a), 3.90 (s, 3 H, CH₃O₈), 3.95 – 3.99 (m, 5 H, H3b, H11a and CH₃O₇), 4.21 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.02 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 4.32 (d, 1 H, *J* = 20.93 Hz, H3a), 5.24 (d, 1 H, *J* = 12.03 Hz, Cl₃CCH₂), 5.83 (d, 1 H, *J* = 9.26 Hz, H11), 6.77 (s, 1 H, H9), 7.25 (s, 1 H, H6); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 207.8 (C2), 168.0 (C5), 153.7 (OC=ONH), 151.4 (C8), 149.2 (C7), 128.0 (C9-10), 124.5 (C5-6), 113.0 (C9), 110.4 (C6), 95.1 (Cl₃C), 87.4 (C11), 74.8 (Cl₃CCH₂), 58.9 (C11a), 56.2 (CH₃O₇), 56.0 (CH₃O₈), 52.8 (C3), 40.3 (C1), 25.5 (C(CH₃)₃), 17.8 (Cquat), -4.2 and -5.3 (Si(CH₃)₂); IR (film) 2934, 1763 (C=O), 1720 (OC=ON), 1649 (NC=O), 1604, 1515, 1402, 1274, 1217, 1120, 1075, 1002, 866, 834, 756, 712 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 615 ([M + MeOH]⁺, 100).

(11*S*,11*aS*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyloxy]-1,2,3,10,11,11*a*-tetrahydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (27)

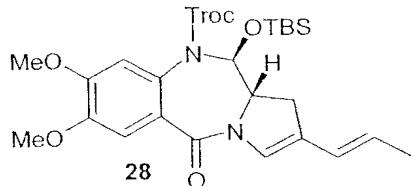


Pyridine (1.71 mL; 21.17 mmol; 7 Equiv.) and trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.56 mL; 21.17 mmol; 7 Equiv) were added to a stirred solution of **27** (1.76 g, 3.02 mmol; 1 Equiv.) in dry CHCl_3 (50 mL) at 0-5 °C (ice bath). The ice bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. At this point TLC analysis revealed the persistence of starting material. As a result, one extra equivalent of pyridine and Tf_2O was added (0.24 and 0.51 mL, respectively). The reaction was stirred for an additional 1 h until complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC. The reaction mixture was washed with water, sat^d CuSO_4 , sat^d NaHCO_3 , dried (MgSO_4), filtered and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 2:8) to give **27** as a pale yellow glass (1.12 g, 52%): $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +56.2^\circ$ ($c = 0.587, \text{CHCl}_3$); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 0.25, 0.27 (two s, 6 H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.88 (s, 9 H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.82 (dd, 1 H, $J = 2.79, 16.66$ Hz, **H1b**), 3.33 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 1.96, 10.73, 16.59$ Hz, **H1a**), 3.90 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}8$), 3.94 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}7$), 3.88 - 3.96 (m, 1 H, **H11a**), 4.20 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.00$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.23 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.00$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.93 (d, 1 H, $J = 9.26$ Hz, **H11**), 6.74 (s, 1 H, **H9**), 7.17 (s, 1 H, **H3**), 7.23 (s, 1 H, **H6**); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 164.9 (**C5**), 153.6 (OC=ONH), 151.8 (**C8**), 149.3 (**C7**), 136.0 (**C2**), 127.9 (**C9-10**), 123.8 (**C5-6**), 121.0 (**C3**), 119.8 (CF_3), 113.2 (**C9**), 110.7 (**C6**), 95.1 (Cl_3C), 86.4 (**C11**), 74.9 (Cl_3CCH_2), 60.6 (**C11a**), 56.2 ($\text{CH}_3\text{O}7$), 56.0 ($\text{CH}_3\text{O}8$), 34.4 (**C1**), 25.5 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 17.8 (**Cquat**), -4.2 and -5.4 ($\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); IR (film) 3008, 2930, 2858, 1725 (OC=ON), 1651 (NC=O), 1516, 1423, 1214, 1136,

1078, 897, 835, 783, 760, 713, 642 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 715 ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 100).

Example 7 - (11aS)-7,8-Dimethoxy-2-(1-propenyl)-1,11a-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (29)

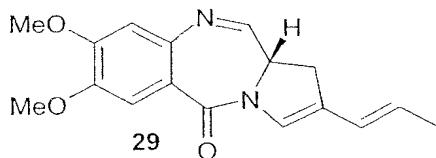
(11S,11aS)-7,8-Dimethoxy-11-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-10-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl)-2-(1-propenyl)-1,2,3,10,11,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (28)



A mixture of Et_3N (0.34 mL, 2.48 mmol, 3 Equiv.), water (0.5 mL) and EtOH (1.70 mL) was added to a solution of 27 (590 mg, 0.826 mmol, 1 Equiv.) in toluene (1.70 mL) with vigorous stirring. The reaction mixture was treated with *trans*-propenylboronic acid (92.2 mg, 1.07 mmol, 1.3 Equiv.) and $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (19 mg, 0.016 mmol, 0.02 Equiv.). After 2 h stirring at room temp TLC revealed no reaction. The mixture was then heated to reflux (111°C) for 30 min after which time TLC showed the complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with EtOAc (30 mL). The organic phase was extracted with water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO_4), filtered and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography ($\text{EtOAc}/\text{Petroleum ether}$ 2:8) to afford the product 10 (297 mg, 59%): $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +78.2^\circ$ ($c = 0.582$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 0.24, 0.26 (two s, 6 H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.89 (s, 9 H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.83 (dd, 3 H, $J = 0.79, 6.69$ Hz, H14), 2.58 (dd, 1 H, $J = 3.11, 16.45$ Hz, H1b), 3.06 (dd, 1 H, $J = 10.59, 16.40$ Hz, H1a), 3.82 – 3.88 (m, 1 H, H11a), 3.89 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}8$), 3.94 (s, 3 H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}7$), 4.17 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.04$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.23 (d, 1 H, $J = 12.04$ Hz, Cl_3CCH_2), 5.50 – 5.56 (m, 1 H, H13), 5.84 (d, 1 H, $J = 8.86$ Hz, H11), 6.25 (d, 1 H, $J = 14.80$ Hz, H12), 6.75 (s, 1 H, H9), 6.88 (s, 1 H, H3), 7.24 (s, 1 H, H6); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 163.6 ($\text{C}5$), 153.6 (OC=ONH), 151.1 ($\text{C}8$), 149.0

(C7), 127.9 (C9-10), 126.5 (C13), 125.5 (C5-6), 124.7 (C12), 124.6 (C3), 123.6 (C2), 113.0 (C9), 110.5 (C6), 95.2 (C13C), 87.2 (C11), 74.7 (C13CCH₂), 61.4 (C11a), 56.2 (CH₃O7), 56.0 (CH₃O8), 33.9 (C1), 25.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 18.4 (C14), 17.9 (Cquat), -4.2 and -5.1 (Si(CH₃)₂);
5 IR (film) 2961, 2935, 2858, 1723 (OC=ON), 1648 (NC=O), 1514, 1404, 1272, 1216, 1076, 837, 756, 644 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 607 ([M + H]⁺, 100).

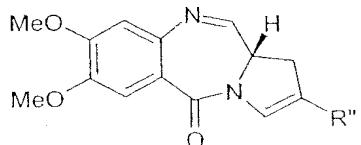
10 (11a*S*)-7,8-Dimethoxy-2-(1-propenyl)-1,11a-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-
c][1,4]benzodiazepin-5-one (29)



15 10% Cd/Pd couple (41.8 mg, 3.38 mmol, 8.2 Equiv.) was added to a rapidly stirring mixture of **28** (250 mg, 0.412 mmol, 1 Equiv.), THF (3 mL) and 1 N ammonium acetate (3 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 3.5 h when TLC showed the complete consumption of the starting material. The solids were filtered and rinsed with H₂O and DCM. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 X 30 mL) and the organic extracts were combined, washed with brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and evaporated *in vacuo* to provide the crude product. Purification by flash column chromatography (0.5%
20 → 2% MeOH in CHCl₃) afforded **29** as a yellow glass (96 mg, 78%):
[α]_D²⁴ = +989° (c = 0.890, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 1.85 (d, 3 H, *J* = 6.26 Hz, H14), 3.12 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 4.95, 16.27 Hz, H1b), 3.30 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 11.80, 15.27 Hz, H1a), 3.93 (s, 3 H, CH₃O8), 3.95 (s, 3 H, CH₃O7), 4.30 (dt, *J* = 4.95, 15.70 Hz, H11a), 5.55 – 5.65 (m, 1 H, H13), 6.27 (d, *J* = 16.04 Hz, H12), 6.81 (s, 1 H, H9), 6.92 (s, 1 H, H3), 7.50 (s, 1 H, H6), 7.82 (d, 1 H, *J* = 4.00 Hz, H11); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.7 (C11), 161.2 (C5), 151.8 (C8), 147.7 (C7), 140.4 (C9-10), 126.9 (C13), 124.46, 124.43 (C12 and C3), 123.9 (C2), 119.2 (C5-6), 111.6 (C6), 109.8 (C9), 56.18, 56.11 (CH₃O7 and CH₃O8), 53.8 (C11a), 34.2 (C1), 18.4 (C14); IR (film) 3018, 2997, 2930, 2847, 1610, 1598 (C=O), 1507, 1431, 1344,

1254, 1214, 1101, 1065, 959, 862, 779 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 331 ($[\text{M} + \text{MeOH}]^+$, 100), 299 ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 45).

Example 8 - Parallel Synthesis of C2-substituted PBDs (30a-a1)



30a-a1

(i) A solution of triethylamine (0.12 mL, 6 equiv.) in water (0.2 mL) and ethanol (1.0 mL) was poured into a stirred solution of **27** (100 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 Equiv.) in toluene (1.0 mL) in an EmrysTM Process vial. To the solution was added the appropriate boronic acid (1.07 equiv.) and polystyrene triphenylphosphine palladium (0) PS- PPh_3Pd (15 mg, 0.0014 mmol, 0.01 Equiv.). The vial was sealed with a ResealTM septum, and the suspension then irradiated at 100°C for 20 minutes under microwave radiation using an EmrysTM Optimizer Microwave Station when TLC showed absence of starting material.

N,N-diethanolaminomethyl polystyrene PS-DEAM (87.5 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1.0 equiv. [13 equiv. on boronic acid excess]) was added to the reaction, and the suspension was irradiated at 100°C for 10 minutes under microwave radiation (as above). Water (3 mL) was added to the reaction, and the suspension shaken for 10 minutes. The mixture was then transferred to a phase separator (PS) cartridge fitted with a selectively permeable frit pre-conditioned with CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) and coupled to a Na_2SO_4 cartridge. Extraction with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 5 mL), followed by concentration *in vacuo* yielded an oil which was redissolved in THF (1.5 mL) and 1N ammonium acetate (1.5 mL).

(ii) To the mixture resulting from the previous step was added 10% Cd/Pb (140 mg, 1.12 mmol, 8.0 Equiv.) while vigorously stirring and the reaction was kept for 1 hour at room temperature when TLC showed absence of starting material. The mixture was poured into an identical PS cartridge pre-conditioned with CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) and coupled to a Na_2SO_4 cartridge. Extraction with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 5 mL) followed by concentration *in vacuo* gave an oil which was subjected

to flash chromatography (EtOAc:Hexane 1:1) afforded the desired compounds, which are listed below.

Compound	R''	Yield (%) [†]	[α] _D [*]
30a	Phenyl	62	+1012°
30b	4-methylphenyl	39	+916°
30c	2-methylphenyl	38	+802°
30d	4-ethylphenyl	45	+985°
30e	2, 6-dimethylphenyl	35	+549°
30f	4-methoxyphenyl	99 [‡]	+976°
30g	3-methoxyphenyl	---	+825°
30h	4- <i>tert</i> -butylphenyl	35	+781°
30i	4-fluorophenyl	41	+978°
30j	4-chlorophenyl	67	+796°
30k	4-biphenyl	44	+792°
30l	4-phenoxyphenyl	47	+823°
30m	2-naphthyl	47	+720°
30n	3, 4-methylenedioxophenyl	46	+837°
30o	<i>trans</i> -2-(4-methylphenyl)vinyl	58	+990°
30p	2-thiophenyl	59	+974°
30q	<i>trans</i> -propenyl	78 [‡]	+989°
30r	4-dimethylaminophenyl	44	+858°
30s	4-methylthiophenyl	18	+979°
30t	4-vinylphenyl	36	+796°
30u	3, 4-dichlorophenyl	41	+641°
30v	4-trifluoromethylphenyl	28	+785°
30w	4-isopropylphenyl	44	+985°
30x	4-cyanophenyl	42	+1000°
30y	3-pyridinyl	14	+1200°
30z	4-pyridinyl	27	+859°
30aa	4-formylphenyl	42	+928°
30ab	4-carboxylphenyl	43	---
30ac	2, 6-dimethoxyphenyl	18.5	---
30ad	4-acetanilide	26.3	---
30ae	4-aminophenyl	21.3	---
30af	1-naphthyl	32	---
30ag	5-indole	34	---
30ah	3-aminophenyl	41	---
30ai	2, 6-difluorophenyl	14	---
30aj	1-pyrenyl	39	---
30ak	4-hydroxyphenyl	14	---
30al	<i>trans</i> -hexenyl	---	---

[†] Overall yield, including Suzuki coupling followed by imine formation.

[‡] yield calculated from Troc-deprotection final step only.

*Concentration range: 0.047-0.89 g/100mL; Temp.: 20-29°C. All samples were dissolved in HPLC grade chloroform stabilised with amyleno, purchased from Fisher Chemicals, Leicestershire, UK..

5 **Example 9: Determination of *In Vitro* Cytotoxicity**

K562 human chronic myeloid leukaemia cells were maintained in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and 2 mM glutamine at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ and were incubated with a specified dose of drug for 1 hour or 96 hours 10 at 37°C in the dark. The incubation was terminated by centrifugation (5 min, 300 g) and the cells were washed once with drug-free medium. Following the appropriate drug treatment, the cells were transferred to 96-well microtiter plates (10⁴ cells per well, 8 wells per sample). Plates were then kept in the dark at 15 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. The assay is based on the ability of viable cells to reduce a yellow soluble tetrazolium salt, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT, Aldrich-Sigma), to an insoluble purple formazan precipitate. Following incubation of the plates for 4 days 20 (to allow control cells to increase in number by approximately 10 fold), 20 µL of MTT solution (5 mg/mL in phosphate-buffered saline) was added to each well and the plates further incubated for 5 h. The plates were then centrifuged for 5 min at 300 g and the bulk of the medium pipetted from the cell pellet leaving 10-20 µL per well. 25 DMSO (200 µL) was added to each well and the samples agitated to ensure complete mixing. The optical density was then read at a wavelength of 550 nm on a Titertek Multiscan ELISA plate reader, and a dose-response curve was constructed. For each curve, an IC₅₀ value was read as the dose required to reduce the final optical 30 density to 50% of the control value.

Results

The following compounds showed an IC₅₀ of less than 1µM after a 96 hour incubation period: 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 30f, 30g, 30h, 30i,

30j, 30k, 30l, 30m, 30n, 30o, 30p, 30q, 30r, 30s, 30t, 30u, 30v,
30w, 30x, 30y, 30z, 30aa, 30ac, 30ad, 30ae, 30af, 30ag, 30ah, 30ai,
30aj, 30al.

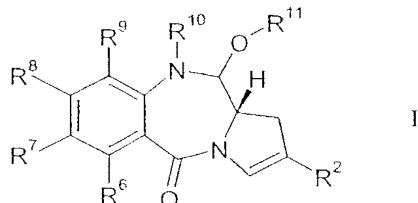
5 The following compounds showed an IC₅₀ of less than 10nM after a 96 hour incubation period: 30a, 30b, 30c, 30g, 30i, 30n, 30p, 30q, 30ai.

Compound	IC ₅₀ ^b (μM)
ZC-204	3.80 ± 0.44
ZC-207	0.0053 ± 0.0049
ZC-209	<0.01
ZC-211	<0.01

^b 1 hour incubation

CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I:



5 and salts, solvates and chemically protected forms thereof, wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

10 R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

15 or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

20 or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group; and

R² is a labile leaving group.

25 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁹ is H.

3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R⁶ is selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, nitro and halo.

30 4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R¹⁰ is Troc.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R¹¹ is a silyl oxygen protecting group or THP.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, 5 wherein R² is triflate.

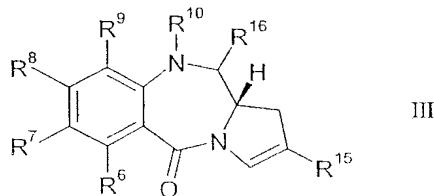
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.

10 8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula -O-(CH₂)_n-O- linking the monomers, where n 15 is from 3 to 12.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein n is from 3 to 7.

10. A compound according to either claim 8 or claim 9, wherein 20 the substituents R⁸ join to form the dimer bridge.

11. A compound of formula III:



25 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms and prodrugs thereof, wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

30 R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH; or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and R¹⁶ is either O-R¹¹, wherein R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group, or O-R¹¹ is OH; or R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ together form a double bond between N10 and C11; R¹⁵ is R; and wherein, when R⁷ and R⁸ are OMe, R⁶ and R⁹ are H, and where R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ together form a double bond between N10 and C11, R¹⁵ is not phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 4-ethylphenyl, 2,6-dimethylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-tert-butylphenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2-naphthyl or 2-thiophenyl.

12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein when R⁷ and R⁸ are OMe, R⁶ and R⁹ are H, and R¹⁵ is R, R is selected from the group 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-biphenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl, trans-2-(4-methylphenyl)vinyl, trans-propenyl, 4-dimethylaminophenyl, 4-methylthiophenyl, 4-vinylphenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-isopropylphenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 3-pyridinyl, 4-pyridinyl, 4-formylphenyl, 4-carboxyphenyl, 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-acetanilide, 4-aminophenyl, 1-naphthyl, 5-indole, 3-aminophenyl, 2,6-difluorophenyl, 1-pyrenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl and trans-hexenyl.

13. A compound according to either claim 11 or claim 12, wherein when R⁷ and R⁸ are OMe, R⁶ and R⁹ are H, and R¹⁵ is R, R is selected from a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group having a nitrogen ring atom, C₅₋₂₀ aryl group having a nitrogen-containing substituent, or a C₅₋₂₀

heteroaryl group having a nitrogen ring atom or a nitrogen-containing substituent.

14. A compound according to claim 11, wherein the compound is a 5 dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula -O-(CH₂)_n-O- linking the monomers, where n is from 3 to 12.

10 15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein n is from 3 to 7.

16. A compound according to either claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the substituents R⁸ join to form the dimer bridge.

15 17. A compound according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein R¹⁵ is selected from:

- (i) optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;
- (ii) substituted C₂ alkyl groups; and
- (iii) optionally substituted C₃₋₇ alkyl groups.

20 18. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

25 19. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein R⁹ is H.

30 20. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.

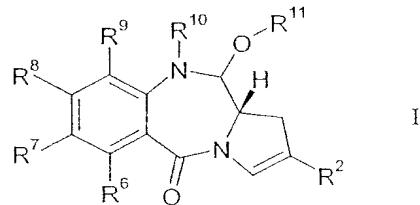
21. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 20 for use in a method of therapy.

22. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 11 to 20, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

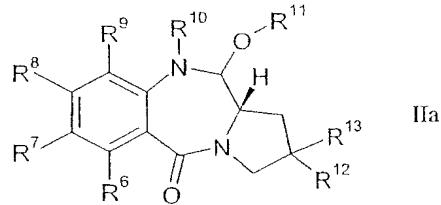
5 23. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 11 to 20 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.

10 24. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 11 to 20.

25. A method of synthesising a compound of formula I:



15 from a compound of formula IIa:



wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

20 R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I),

25 where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted

by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH; or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

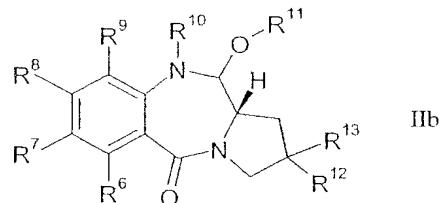
5 R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group;

R² is a labile leaving group; and

R¹² and R¹³ together form =O.

10 26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the compound of formula **IIa** is synthesised from a compound of formula **IIb**:



wherein said compound of formula **IIb** has R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ defined according to claim 25, and for said compound of formula **IIb** 15 R¹² is O-R¹⁴, and R¹³ is H; and
R¹⁴ is an oxygen protecting group orthogonal to R¹¹.

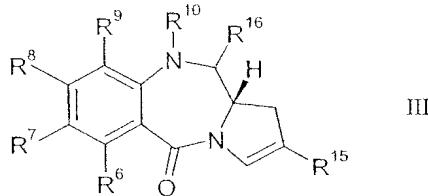
27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the compound of formula **IIa** is synthesised using an oxidation reaction performed 20 under Swern conditions, or a method involving the TPAP or the Dess Martin reagents.

28. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein when R² in the compound of formula **I** is -OSO₂CH₃, -OSO₂(C_nF_{2n+1}) where 25 n = 0, 1 or 4, or -OSO₂R^s where R^s is an optionally substituted phenyl group, then said compound of formula **I** is synthesised by using a treatment step with the appropriate R² anhydride.

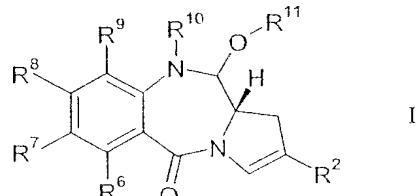
29. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein 30 when R² in the compound of formula **I** is -I or -Br, then said compound of formula **I** is synthesised by using a reaction step involving hydrazine and iodine or bromine.

30. A method according to any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein when R² in the compound of formula I is -Cl, then said compound of formula I is synthesised by using a reaction step involving 5 phosphorous oxychloride.

31. A method of synthesising a compound of formula III:



from a compound of formula I:



10

wherein

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

15 R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

20 or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R"-X- linking the monomers, where R" is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

25 or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R² is a labile leaving group;

R^{16} is either $O-R^{11}$, where R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group, or OH , or R^{10} and R^{16} together form a double bond between $N10$ and $C11$; and R^{15} is R .

5 32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the synthesis of said compound of formula **III** uses a palladium catalysed coupling step.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the palladium catalyst is $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, $Pd(OCOCH_3)_2$, $PdCl_2$ or $Pd(dba)_3$.

10 34. A method according to either claim 32 or claim 33, wherein the coupling reaction is performed under microwave conditions.

15 35. A method according to any one of claims 32 to 34, wherein the palladium catalyst is solid supported.